

BOROUGH OF HEMEL HEMPSTEAD
RURAL DISTRICT OF HEMEL HEMPSTEAD
URBAN DISTRICT OF BERKHAMSTED
RURAL DISTRICT OF BERKHAMSTED
URBAN DISTRICT OF TRING



ANNUAL REPORT


of the

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH



for the year
1963





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CONTENTS

	Page
Borough of Hemel Hempstead	8
Rural District of Hemel Hempstead	30
Urban District of Berkhamsted	48
Rural District of Berkhamsted	66
Urban District of Tring	82
Dacorum Division, Hertfordshire County Council ...	96

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for year year 1963

To the Mayor and Members of the

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

and to the Chairman and Members of :

THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BERKHAMSTED

THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BERKHAMSTED

AND THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF TRING

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my eighth Annual Report on the health and social conditions of your Districts for the year 1963. The report is prepared in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health and is in a form similar to those of previous years. The sections dealing with the Sanitary Circumstances of the Area, Housing, and the Inspection and Supervision of Food have been written and compiled by the Public Health Inspectors, to whom I am indebted. The final section of the report is devoted to a brief survey of the personal health services in the Division, for which the County Council is the responsible Authority.

The vital statistics are satisfactory and compare favourably with those for the County as well as with those for the country as a whole. The incidence of notifiable infectious diseases, apart from Measles, is low. The epidemic of Measles in the first half of the year affected every part of the Division but was particularly severe in Tring, perhaps for the simple reason that the number of young children in the town is now proportionately higher than it is elsewhere in the Division. It is an interesting fact that since writing my first annual report seven years ago the number of annual births in Tring has more than doubled and its birth rate has become the highest in the Division.

The death rate is slightly lower, including the death rate from cancer, but despite the fewer deaths from this disease in all its forms the number of deaths from lung cancer is appreciably greater. Forty-four persons, all but four male, died from lung cancer as compared with an average of 28 deaths from the disease in the previous five years. While no firm conclusion can be drawn from evidence based solely on the number of deaths occurring in one year, the increase in the number of deaths from lung cancer is but typical of the general experience throughout the land in the last decade. If we are to profit by experience everyone should now be considering what possible steps can be taken to arrest the further spread of the disease.

It is true to say that no longer can a comprehensive cause for cancer be expected. The neoplastic reaction is now seen to be the response of living cells to a variety of stimuli and while research into

the biology of cancer must continue the practical objective of preventive medicine must be to reduce such causal factors as are already established. Smoking is one such causal factor in lung cancer and yet the overwhelming evidence presented by both the British and American reports on the subject appears to be largely ignored by at least the majority of smokers. It seems that once the smoking habit is established the chances of breaking it are small. Some accomplish what they desire, many do not, while the majority haven't even the inclination to try. It has been said that one of the most remarkable facts facing public health authorities is the equanimity with which the loss of life from lung cancer in its present scale is accepted by the general public.

One of our main hopes for the reduction of lung cancer would appear to rest upon our efforts to discourage the young from starting the smoking habit, though it must be admitted that to influence the young in these days, except perhaps by example, is a pretty formidable undertaking. Another measure to be pursued is the furtherance of research into the isolation and removal of the carcinogenic factors present in tobacco. It may well be that with the habit of smoking so deeply ingrained in modern society it is this measure which may offer the greater hope of success.

In conclusion I offer my thanks to the members of the Councils for their kindly consideration and continued interest in all matters relating to health, to the Public Health Inspectors for their help and co-operation and to the staff of the Divisional Health Office for their loyal support.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

R. S. HYND,

Medical Officer of Health.

Health Department,
"Churchill", Park Road,
Hemel Hempstead, Herts.

July, 1964.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

R. S. HYND, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

(also Divisional Medical Officer, Dacorum Division, Hertfordshire C.C.)

BOROUGH OF HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

Chief Public Health Inspector :

ALAN C. HORNE, D.P.A., F.A.P.H.I.

(Meat and Other Foods, Smoke, and Sanitary Science Certificates—R.S.H.)

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :

E. BIRCH, M.A.P.H.I.

(Meat and Other Foods, and Smoke Certificates—R.S.H.)

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

D. P. J. BYRNE, M.A.P.H.I.

(Meat and Other Foods Certificate—R.S.H.)

J. A. FISH, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

(Meat and other Foods, and Smoke Certificates—R.S.H.: Housing Management
—Institute of Housing)

K. WHITELEY, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.,

(Meat and Other Foods Certificate—R.S.H.)

E. R. POTTS, M.A.P.H.I.

(Meat and Other Foods, and Smoke Certificates—R.S.H.)

RURAL DISTRICT OF HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

Senior Public Health Inspector :

R. H. T. CHAPPELL, B.SC., M.A.P.H.I., CERT. R.S.H. AND S.I.E.J.B.

(Meat and Other Foods Certificate—R.S.H.)

URBAN DISTRICT OF BERKHAMSTED

Senior Public Health Inspector :

R. C. SWEET, M.A.P.H.I.

(Meat and Other Foods and Sanitary Science Certificates—R.S.H.)

RURAL DISTRICT OF BERKHAMSTED

Public Health Inspector :

C. LAIDMAN, CERT. R.S.H. AND S.I.E.J.B., F.A.L.P.A.

(Meat and Other Foods Certificate—R.S.H.)

(also Surveyor and Housing Manager to the District Council)

URBAN DISTRICT OF TRING

Chief Public Health Inspector:

T. WILLIAMS JONES, M.R.S.H.

(Meat and Other Foods Certificate—R.S.H.)

(also Surveyor to the District Council)

Additional Public Health Inspector:

G. WILSON, CERT. R.S.A.S.

(Meat and Other Foods Certificate—R.S.A.S.)

(Also Assistant Surveyor)

**BOROUGH OF
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD**



Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health

1963

BOROUGH OF HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

1. General Statistics

Area	7,193 acres
Registrar-General's estimate of population mid-1963 ...	60,460
Number of inhabited houses according to Valuation List at 31st December, 1963	18,550
Rateable Value at 31st December, 1963	£3,372,412
Sum represented by a penny rate, 1963/64	£14,300

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics

LIVE BIRTHS:

					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	614	549	1,163
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	33	19	52
Total ...					647	568	1,215

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population: 20.1.

Adjusted Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population: 17.1.

STILL BIRTHS:

					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	13	5	18
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Total ...					14	6	20

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of total (live and still) births: 16.2.

DEATHS:

Males 231, Females 197	...	...	...	...	428
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...	...	7.1
Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...	...	10.6
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	...	Nil
Maternity Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	0.0

NUMBER OF DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE:

					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	8	4	12
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Total ...					9	4	13

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE:

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	10.7
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	10.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	19.2
Neo-natal mortality rate	...	...	...	...	6.6
Early neo-natal mortality rate	...	...	...	...	5.8
Peri-natal mortality rate	...	...	...	...	21.9

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION FROM:

Heart and Circulatory Disease	...	...	...	...	2.38
Cancer	...	...	...	...	1.52
Respiratory Disease (excluding tuberculosis of respiratory system)	...	...	...	...	0.88
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	...	...	...	...	1.06
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	0.03
Infective and Parasitic Diseases (excluding T.B. but including syphilis and other V.D.)	...	...	...	...	0.03
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	0.02

VITAL STATISTICS

Population

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population at mid-1963 was 60,460 as compared with 58,270 at mid-1962. Allowing for the natural increase of population, i.e., excess of births over deaths, of 787, this shows that 1,403 persons moved into the area last year.

Comparability Factors

The area comparability factors in respect of Births and Deaths supplied by the Registrar-General for the Borough are 0.85 and 1.50 respectively. These are the factors by which the crude birth and death rates are multiplied so as to make the rates truly comparable with those for other areas and with the rates for the country as a whole.

The need for such adjustment is occasioned by the difference in the constitution of area populations as regards the proportions of their sex and age group components. The low factor for births and the high factor for deaths are both indicative of the relative youthfulness of the Borough population as compared with other areas and the country as a whole. It should be noted, however, that both factors are now tending to approximate more closely to unity indicating a gradual trend towards a more standardised population in age grouping.

Births

After adjustment for inward and outward transferable births a net total of 1,215 live births was registered in the Borough during the year, a decrease of four on the previous year.

The adjusted birth rate was 17.1 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 15.5 for the previous year and 18.2 for England and Wales.

Still Births

After adjustment for transfers, 20 still-births were registered during the year, a decrease of one as compared with the previous year. The still-birth rate was 16.2 per 1,000 (live and still) births as compared with 16.9 for 1962 and with 17.2 for England and Wales.

Deaths

After correction for inward and outward transferable deaths, the net total of deaths registered in and assigned to the Borough was 428 (231 males, 197 females), an increase of four compared with the previous year.

The adjusted death rate was 10.6 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 11.4 for the previous year. The death rate for England and Wales was 12.2.

The principal causes of death in order of numerical importance were: Diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System, Cancer, Vascular lesions of the Nervous System and Respiratory Diseases.

Of the 92 deaths from Cancer during the year the primary growth in 28 instances was situated in the lung or bronchus.

Infant Mortality

The infant mortality rate was 10.7 per 1,000 live births as compared with 19.7 for the previous year and with 21.1 for England and Wales.

Deaths in Age Groups

					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	9	4	13
1— 5 years	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
5—15 years	...	...	...	...	4	2	6
15—25 years	...	...	...	...	3	2	5
25—35 years	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
35—45 years	...	...	...	...	12	7	19
45—55 years	...	...	...	...	22	5	27
55—65 years	...	...	...	...	47	24	71
65—75 years	...	...	...	...	52	52	104
75 years and over	...	...	...	...	79	100	179
ALL CAUSES ...					231	197	428

Causes of Death in 1963

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1	2
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	1	1
3. Syphilitic Disease	—	1	1
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	1	1
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	5	3	8
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	26	2	28
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	6	6
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	2	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	24	24	48
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	3	—	3
16. Diabetes	—	2	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	19	45	64
18. Coronary disease, angina	45	34	79
19. Hypertension with heart disease .	1	3	4
20. Other heart disease	24	20	44
21. Other circulatory disease	5	12	17
22. Influenza	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	22	9	31
24. Bronchitis	17	5	22
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa .	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	5	—	5
30. Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	3	4	7
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	13	8	21
33. Motor vehicle accidents	7	4	11
34. All other accidents	7	7	14
35. Suicide	3	1	4
36. Homicide and operations of war .	—	1	1
ALL CAUSES ...	231	197	428

Infant Mortality in 1963

Causes of Death	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total under 1 year
Congenital Malformations ...	3	1	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	5
Prematurity ...	2	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	3
Haemolytic Disease of the New Born ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonitis ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	3
Cerebral Abscess	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
TOTALS ...	7	1	—	—	8	3	1	1	—	13

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER

All dwellinghouses in the Borough, except for 20, which are supplied by private wells or bores, draw their water from the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company's mains. Samples were taken from house supplies and all proved satisfactory. The private supplies are also checked periodically and are of satisfactory quality for drinking and domestic use.

The water supply of the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company has no more than 0.05 parts per million of fluoride present.

Particulars of dwellings and population supplied by public water mains and from wells:

Total Number in Borough	Dwellings 18,629*	Persons 60,460†
Number supplied from main:		
1. Direct	18,601	60,368
2. To outside standpipes	6	19
	<hr/> 18,607	<hr/> 60,387
Number supplied by wells	22	73

* Supplied by Borough Treasurer.

† Registrar-General's figure for mid-1963.

Water Samples taken during 1963

Description of Samples	BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAM.		
	Taken	Satis.	Unsatis.
Main Supply:			
Chlorinated	20	20	—
Private Supplies	3	3	—
Swimming Pool	18	18	—

Public Swimming Bath

The Borough has one modern open-air swimming bath situated in Park Road. The pool is filled from the main water supply, and is equipped with filters and break-point chlorination plant. Eighteen samples were taken from various points in the pool and all were satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SANITATION

Work on the sewer at Bourne End and Winkwell was not commenced in 1963 as had been hoped, but is scheduled for 1964. Visits were paid to all the houses to encourage owners of the older dwellings, which lack modern amenities, to improve their properties by means of standard or discretionary grants.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act 1937

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors):

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	14	4	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	204	137	13	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	58	90	15	—
TOTAL	276	231	28	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	1	1	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	1	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences:					
(a) insufficient	— (3)	1 (4)	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective .	12 (12)	10 (8)	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes ...	—	1	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	14 (15)	13 (12)	—	—	—

Figures in brackets refer to building sites, and are totalled separately.

3. OUTWORKERS:

Making wearing apparel	45
Making boxes or other receptacles of paper	52
Making brushes	2
Miscellaneous	3
TOTAL	102

SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

Visits and Inspections:

GENERAL :

Houses—Public Health Acts	222
Housing Acts	162
Rent Act	9
Improvement Grants	95
Infectious diseases and food poisoning	57
Overcrowding	239
Council house removals	329
Problem families and old people	101
Water Supplies	111
Keeping of animals	77
Drainage and cesspools	547
Refuse and sewage disposal	151
Moveable dwellings	81
Canal boats	32
Factories, workplaces, farms and outworkers' premises	142
Building sites	90
Demolition sites	194
Schools	8
Offices	17
Theatres, cinemas and public halls	22
Agricultural premises	11
Swimming Pool	11
Shops Act	135
Petroleum Acts	350
Pet Animals Act	10
Merchandise Marks Act	28
Pests Act—rats and mice	1,484
Noise Abatement Act	34
Dirty and verminous premises	34
Flies, insects and pigeons	324
Clean Air Act—visits to houses	1,977
visits to measuring apparatus	881
Smoke observation and boiler-house visits	95
Fairgrounds	12
Revisits to dwellings under notice	802
Interviews	1,015
Food hygiene lectures	16
Talks to organisations	15
Attendances at court	11
Other visits	970

FOOD PREMISES :

Slaughterhouses	9
Butchers' shops	115
Fishmongers (including fried fish shops)	47

Greengrocers and fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	79
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	73
Restaurants, dining rooms and kitchens	...	...	...	...	...	...	135
School, factory, building site and mobile canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	278
Public market and foodstalls	...	...	...	...	...	...	426
Mobile food traders and delivery vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	140
Grocers and other food premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	346
Food inspection visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	262
Food and Drugs sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	73
Food vending machines	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Watercress beds	...	...	...	...	...	...	39

Nuisances Abated: Defects and Contraventions Remedied

Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	901
Moveable dwellings removed from site	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Food premises, including stalls and vehicles*	...	...	...	...	...	...	415
Shops (including Welfare)	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Petroleum	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
Merchandise Marks Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	37

* These figures refer only to improvements to existing buildings: improvements to new premises prior to occupation are not included.

Notices Served and Complied with

				Outstanding 31.12.62	Served 1963	Completed 1963	Outstanding 31.12.63
Formal	...	...	...	2	12	14	—
Informal	...	...	...	198	502	489	211
				<hr/> 200	<hr/> 514	<hr/> 503	<hr/> 211

Common Lodging Houses

There are no common lodging houses in the Borough.

Clean Air

SMOKE CONTROL AREAS

Two smoke control areas at Highfield and one at Leverstock Green came into operation, the former on the 1st January and the latter on the 1st June. The majority of the premises affected are of recent construction and only a few adaptations were necessary. One Council house estate, two Commission for New Towns estates and an old established hospital were included.

Surveys were completed for the Grove Hill/Cupid Green area, and commenced in Gadebridge.

MEASUREMENT OF ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Another pollution measuring station, making four in all, was set up—this time in the industrial area. Two of these stations are equipped with eight-port apparatus and need visiting only once each week. The general level of pollution is lower than in most towns of a comparable size, which is not unexpected considering the large proportion of post-war houses and factories to be found in the Borough. High pollution figures in January and February, particularly at the two stations situated near older property, coincided with the exceptionally cold weather experienced then. In January there were frequent snow storms with snow cover on the ground continuously. There were below-freezing temperatures day and night from the 16th-25th inclusive, and during the period 21st-24th there were over 20 degrees of frost each night. February showed some improvement but there was frost every night and the month was dry; the winds for the whole month were in the Eastern sector from North to South.

MEASURING STATION SITES

No. 1. *Odeon Cinema, Marlowes*.—Is in the town centre, situated in a valley running North/South. Surrounded by mainly modern shops and commercial and administrative buildings with oil fired central heating.

Monthly Averages of Smoke and Sulphur Dioxide

1963	SMOKE			SULPHUR DIOXIDE			SMOKE /SO 2 RATIO
	Average for Month	Highest Daily Figure	Lowest Daily Figure	Average for Month	Highest Daily Figure	Lowest Daily Figure	
Jan.	119	277	37	221	500	66	.54
Feb.	146	328	37	254	477	107	.57
March	48	157	17	98	220	46	.49
April	45	87	13	76	141	31	.59
May	27	60	13	67	141	31	.40
June	17	32	7	27	55	0	.63
July	14	37	5	26	73	6	.54
Aug.	15	40	5	21	54	0	.42
Sept.	31	56	6	38	129	0	.82
Oct.	43	88	8	73	187	25	.59
Nov.	91	304	12	120	364	13	.76
Dec.	132	352	48	138	375	74	.94

No. 2. *Town Hall, High Street*.—In a North/South valley with parkland to the West and old residential and shop property on rising ground to the East.

Monthly Averages of Smoke and Sulphur Dioxide

1963	SMOKE			SULPHUR DIOXIDE			SMOKE /SO ₂ RATIO
	Average for Month	Highest Daily Figure	Lowest Daily Figure	Average for Month	Highest Daily Figure	Lowest Daily Figure	
Jan.	114	240	46	184	432	66	.62
Feb.	159	332	38	253	486	90	.63
March	37	117	4	73	176	17	.51
April	37	98	3	59	142	16	.63
May	18	43	1	39	73	18	.46
June	13	26	3	26	51	12	.50
July	11	30	4	22	61	0	.50
Aug.	11	44	2	19	55	0	.57
Sept.	27	57	6	34	93	12	.79
Oct.	35	84	8	62	177	25	.56
Nov.	78	244	0	117	342	18	.66
Dec.	130	300	40	102	296	24	1.27

No. 3. *Adeyfield*.—It is situated in a secondary modern school in a post-war residential district.

Monthly Averages of Smoke and Sulphur Dioxide

1963	SMOKE			SULPHUR DIOXIDE			SMOKE /SO ₂ RATIO
	Average for Month	Highest Daily Figure	Lowest Daily Figure	Average for Month	Highest Daily Figure	Lowest Daily Figure	
Jan.	133	485	20	164	760	31	.81
Feb.	138	324	27	91	201	25	1.52
March	63	184	32	35	102	12	1.80
April	35	79	20	26	127	9	1.32
May	22	53	12	42	103	14	.52
June	16	37	7	32	116	13	.50
July	16	47	0	30	143	0	.53
Aug.	7	31	2	14	51	0	.50
Sept.	28	71	0	51	110	13	.55
Oct.	44	89	16	83	170	20	.53
Nov.	78	264	8	116	348	31	.67
Dec.	107	332	28	158	342	78	.68

No. 4. *Kodak*: is situated in the new industrial area, but did not come into operation until August.

HOUSING

Houses in Multiple Occupation

The Council adopted standards for houses which are let in multiple occupation. There are only a few of these in the Borough and it was anticipated that the existence of reasonable standards concerned with such matters as the number of occupiers, sanitary accommodation, and washing and cooking facilities, would not only ensure reasonable living conditions for existing tenants but would cause landlords to think twice before letting houses in this way.

Improvement of Houses

My last report refers to a pilot scheme, in response to the request by the Minister of Housing and Local Government, to tackle improvement of houses by streets or by areas. Of the 56 houses concerned, 25 were found to be owner/occupied; 14 already had all five standard amenities, leaving 42 with some or none at all.

Each house was inspected and tenants interviewed; landlords of tenanted houses were written to and invited to discuss their properties. Every encouragement was given but results have been disappointing.

Temporary Bungalows

The 50 temporary bungalows erected soon after the war were demolished and the sites are to be used for permanent houses.

Unfit Houses

The tenants of the 24 houses in the Frogmore Crescent clearance area were rehoused and demolition commenced. Three Demolition and four Closing Orders were made and 200 repair notices were served.

The Housing Manager remarks.—

“Seventy-six new houses, 22 flats, ten maisonettes and ten shops were built during the year. These, together with chance vacancies which occurred, made it possible to house 119 applicants off the waiting list and transfer 38 existing tenants to more suitable accommodation. In addition a further seven tenants were rehoused from the temporary bungalows, and 13 from other unfit properties.

On the 1st April, 1963, the Borough Council and the Commission for the New Towns inaugurated a joint waiting list for ‘newly-weds’. It was stated at that time that housing from this list would not commence for possibly two years, but would eventually lead to a more consistent selection of tenants and allocation of houses in the Borough.

The number of applicants on the joint ‘newly-wed’ list at 31st December, 1963, was 99, of which 67 would normally have registered through the Borough Council.

The number of applicants on the main waiting list at 31st December, 1963, was 663, of which 285 were in rooms and 378 were already occupying separate accommodation, but were requiring better accommodation for various reasons (e.g. overcrowding, poor amenities, etc.). In addition to this, 80 applicants were on the approved list awaiting housing, having already been selected through the Council’s points scheme, and three tenants of unfit properties were also awaiting housing.”

During the year, the following houses were : —

(a) **Commenced only:**

	Local Authority		Private Enterprise
	Number	Type	
Permanent Brick	131	3 and 4-bedroom houses; flats	68

(b) **Completed:**

	Local Authority		Private Enterprise
	Number	Type	
Permanent Brick	109	3-bedroom houses and maisonettes; 1 and 2-bedroom flats	113

The position in regard to HOUSING SCHEMES at 31.12.63 was as follows:—

(a) **Particulars of Schemes (or Contracts) completed since 1.1.45 up to 31.12.63:**

Site	Number of houses	Type
Crabtree Lane	54	Permanent Brick—2 and 3-bedroom
Crabtree Lane	31	Temporary Prefabricated—2 bedroom
Wood Crescent	19	Temporary Prefabricated—2 bedroom
Adeyfield	102	Permanent Prefabricated—3-bedroom
Adeyfield	178	Permanent Brick—2 and 3-bedroom houses, 1 and 2-bedroom flats and Old People's Bungalows
Belswains Estate ...	186	Permanent Brick—2, 3 and 4-bedroom houses, and bungalows.
Beechfield Estate ...	188	Permanent Brick—2 and 3-bedroom houses and bungalows
Oakdene Road	6	Permanent Brick—3-bedroom
Fairway	40	Permanent Brick—2 and 3-bedroom
Stonelea Road	14	Permanent Brick—3-bedroom
Vauxhall Road	14	Permanent Brick—3-bedroom
Seaton Road	1	Permanent Brick—3-bedroom
Deaconsfield Road	1	Permanent Brick—3-bedroom
Oliver Road	2	Permanent Brick—2-bedroom
Warners End	58	Permanent Brick—2 and 3-bedroom
Highfield Estate ...	611	Permanent Brick—1, 2, and 3-bedroom houses, flats, maisonettes, Old People's Bungalows and shops.
Whealers Lane	15	Permanent Brick—3-bedroom, parlour
Wood Crescent East	15	Permanent Brick—3-bedroom, non-parlour
„ „ West	15	Permanent Brick—3-bedroom, non-parlour
Cupid Green Depot	2	Permanent Brick, 3-bedroom

(b) **Particulars of Schemes (or Contracts) commenced, but not completed at 31.12.63:**

Site	No. of houses	Type	No. commenced	No. completed
Highfield Scheme 12...	93	3 and 4-bedroom houses; flats (12)	93	86
Highfield Scheme 13...	130	Various	130	3

(c) **Particulars of Schemes (or Contracts) projected, i.e., schemes about which arrangements are in hand, but where a start had not been made at 31.12.63:**

Site	Proposed No. of Houses	Type
Crabtree Lane.....	48	2 and 3-bedroom houses: 2-bedroom flats
Highfield Scheme 11...	173	2 and 3-bedroom houses: 2-bedroom flats
Highfield Scheme 14...	378	Various

Number of applicants on waiting list for Council houses (after review early in 1964) 663

I am indebted to the Commission for the New Towns for the following information regarding the progress of the New Town:—

1. Housing:

In 1963, 357 new dwellings were completed, comprising:—

- 10 Bed sitters
- 31 one-bedroom
- 73 two-bedroom
- 183 three-bedroom
- 60 four-bedroom

The total number of dwellings completed and occupied since designation:—10,802, making the New Town population approximately 37,000.

The 357 dwellings completed during the year were distributed as follows:—

Adeyfield	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Anchor Lane	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Bennetts End	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Highfield	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Leverstock Green	...	...	...	...	...	...	237

The number of dwellings under construction at the end of 1963 was 422, allocated as follows:—

Adeyfield	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Bennetts End	...	...	...	...	...	...	86
Chaulden	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Gadebridge	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Leverstock Green	...	...	...	...	...	...	86
Warners End	...	...	...	...	...	...	189
The Alleys	...	...	...	...	...	...	16

2. Factories:

Fifty-nine factories were completed in the industrial area and were in operation, employing approximately 9,600 people. Two factories were under construction and, in addition, six extensions to existing factories were under construction.

3. Shops:

Town Centre	...	...	...	...	169 completed
Neighbourhoods	...	...	...	...	129 completed

4. Schools:

During the year five schools and two additional classrooms (3,070 places) were completed and one school (280 places) was under construction.

5. Commercial Offices:

Office blocks (201,600 sq. ft.) completed at Plough roundabout and Waterhouse Street; both are partially occupied.

6. General Notes:

Library extension, Road 12 (Hemel Hempstead by-pass), College of Further Education, Circular car park and Tiered car park (Wolsey Road) completed and in use. Progress being made on new Civic Centre and Pavilion.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Complaints

The number of complaints made by dissatisfied customers about food they have purchased continues to increase. Sixty-six complaints were received; 25 related to foreign matter in foods; moulds accounted for ten, and a further 22 were in respect of allegedly unfit food.

Food Hygiene

Generally the Borough has well constructed and well equipped food premises. Unfortunately, far too many of those employed in the food trades lack the knowledge, and sometimes the desire, to apply hygienic methods, and the constant turnover of staff accentuates the problem.

Retail Food Premises

The number of retail food premises at 31st December, 1963 was:—

Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Fishmongers—Wet and dried fish only	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Wet, dried and fried fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Grocers and greengrocers (mixed trade—not included above)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Flour confectionery (bread and cakes)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Sugar confectionery (sweets)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	72
Licensed premises (not including Off-Licences)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Licensed premises serving main meals (including above)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Cafés	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Registered for sausage making, food preservation, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Registered for sale of ice-cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	123
Number of premises concerned in above	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	266

Equipment

Occupiers of shops often have surprisingly little knowledge of how to use and maintain the equipment they purchase. Inspectors spend much time explaining how to use and load refrigerators and deep freeze cabinets, the temperatures at which they should be maintained and how to clean and sterilise items such as bacon slicers. Equipment manufacturers sometimes lose interest as soon as a sale is completed, and leave the purchaser with inadequate and sometimes misleading operating instructions.

Milk Distribution

One farm bottles milk for retail sale: it is registered by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

There are no milk processing or bottling plants in the Council's area.

The six registered dairies are merely depots, from which milk is distributed in the bottles in which it is received.

Milk Dispensing Machines

Cold milk dispensing machines are quite popular on the counters of catering establishments. Samples of milk obtained from them for bacteriological examination showed that what was advertised as Cold Fresh Milk was, in fact, often cold sour milk. Eighteen of these machines of two distinct types were in use. Cleaning instructions in booklet form had been issued with each machine but operators had abandoned the recommended methods and were merely "washing them out." Cleansing was unsatisfactory and sterilising, so important for any apparatus connected with milk, was not properly carried out.

Consultations were held with the Milk Marketing Board, who supplied the machines, the machine manufacturers and detergent manufacturers. Suitable cleansing, sterilising and handling routines were agreed and operators issued with the necessary instructions. Subsequent milk samples proved satisfactory.

Samples Taken

Bacteriological Examination

(a) Milk

DESIGNATED MILK—	Obtained from				Others	
	Vending Machines		Counter Dispensers		Satis.	Unsatis.
	Satis.	Unsatis.	Satis.	Unsatis.		
Pasteurised	Nil	Nil	3	5	4	Nil
Tuberculin Tested (Farm Bottled) ...	10	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sterilised	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	Nil

(b) Ice Cream

Taken	Grade I	Grade II	Grades III/IV
12	6	4	2

Slaughterhouses

There is one slaughterhouse in the Borough, attached to a butcher's shop. This slaughterhouse complies with statutory standards and is suitable for a limited amount of slaughtering, excluding cattle. No slaughtering was carried out during 1963.

Foodstuffs found to be Unfit for Human Consumption

Unfit foodstuffs are disposed of under supervision at the Council's Refuse Tip. The main items of unfit food dealt with were:—

Carcase meat and offal	462 lbs.
Fish	233 lbs.
Tinned Meat	403 lbs.
Semolina	42 lbs.
Tins, jars and packets	5,151

Food and Drugs Sampling

One hundred and twelve samples were submitted to the Public Analyst; nine were taken formally, while ten were submitted following complaints by members of the public.

Two samples were incorrectly labelled—an orange syrup and a pie filling—and the manufacturers agreed to provide correct labels. A steak pie contained a used surgical dressing, a loaf had mouse droppings baked in it, while another contained a cigarette end. Other items found included a rusty wood screw baked in a cake, mouse droppings in semolina delivered to a school canteen, and glass fragments in a bread roll. A slimming food was deficient in iron and vitamin “A,” and a milk loaf was deficeient in milk solids; both these lines have now been discontinued. Six samples of fruit and vegetables were found to be free from pesticides and herbicides.

Merchandise Marks Act

Frequent checks were made of correct marking of meat, fruit and vegetables at shops and market stalls. Several infringements were found, including the non-marking of imported tomatoes at the time when the English grown varieties were first appearing. Two successful prosecutions were taken.

Prosecutions

The following cases were heard at the Magistrates’ Court:—

Food and Drugs Act, 1955, Section 2

“Food not of the nature, substance or quality demanded”

1.	Cigarette end in loaf ...	...	...	Fined £20)	£10 10s. costs
2.	Screw in bun ...	...	...	Fined £20)	
3.	Used finger dressing in meat pie ...	...	Fined £5	£5 5s. costs	
4.	Mouse droppings in semolina	...	Fined £5		
5.	Mouse droppings in loaf ...	...	Fined £5		
6.	Lolly stick in milk bottle ...	...	Fined £25)	£5 5s. costs	
7.	Flower bulb in milk bottle ...	...	Fined £25)		
8.	Road chippings in milk bottle	...	Fined £15	£5 5s. costs	

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960

1.	Smoking whilst handling open food ...	Fined £2
2.	Smoking whilst handling open food ...	Fined £2

Merchandise Marks Act, 1926

1.	Not labelling imported tomatoes ...	Fined £2
2.	Not labelling imported tomatoes ...	Fined £2

Health Education

Education of food handlers is not easy but much good work was done by inspectors during routine visits to premises of all types. In addition talks were given to groups of food handlers, including workers at an office canteen following an outbreak of food poisoning which affected 40 of the office staff. The talks were illustrated by colour transparencies.

Talks were also arranged to 15 local organisations; colour transparencies were used to show the many aspects of the public health inspectors’ work. Generally speaking, members of the public have very little knowledge of the services provided by their local authorities and every opportunity is taken to spread the information.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Table showing cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year:—

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	24	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	13	1	Nil
Measles	1,278	Nil	Nil
Dysentery	5	2	Nil
Erysipelas	1	1	Nil
Food Poisoning	2	1	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	Nil	Nil

Analysis of Notified Cases under Age Groups

Age Groups	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	Dysentery	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia
Under 1 year ...	—	2	25	2	—	—	—
1 to 2 years .	1	3	102	—	—	—	—
2 to 3 years .	1	—	176	—	—	—	—
3 to 4 years .	3	1	168	—	—	—	—
4 to 5 years .	2	—	203	—	—	—	—
5 to 10 years .	16	5	554	—	—	—	—
10 to 15 years .	—	2	19	1	—	—	—
15 to 20 years .	1	—	3	—	—	—	—
20 to 35 years .	—	—	4	1	—	—	1
35 to 45 years .	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
45 to 65 years .	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
65 years & over	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Age unknown .	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Total Cases Notified	24	13	1,278	5	1	2	2

TUBERCULOSIS

The following Tables give details of the number of cases on the Notification Register, together with particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from Tuberculosis during the year:—

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Number of cases on the Register at 1st January, 1963	278	218	16	30
Number of cases notified for the first time during the year	9	15	2	1
Number of cases added to the Register other than by notification (i.e. transfers-in, etc.)	10	13	—	3
Number of cases removed from the Register during the year :	30	27	4	5
Total number of cases remaining on the Register at the end of the year ...	267	219	14	29

Age (years)	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0— 1 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5 years ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5—10 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25 years ...	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 years ...	5	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 years ...	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	1
45—55 years ...	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 years ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
Totals	9	15	2	1	1	1	—	1

RURAL DISTRICT OF HEMEL HEMPSTEAD



Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health

1963

RURAL DISTRICT OF HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

1. General Statistics

The Rural District comprises an area of 20,231 acres and contains the parishes of Kings Langley, Chipperfield, Flaunden, Bovington, Great Gaddesden, Flamstead and Markyate.

Registrar-General's estimate of population, mid-1963 ...	13,810
Number of inhabited houses according to Valuation List at 31st December, 1963	4,940
Rateable Value at 31st December, 1963	£501,382
Sum represented by a penny rate, 1963/64	£2,050

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics

LIVE BIRTHS:

					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	113	116	229
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	8	7	15
Total ...					121	123	244

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population: 17.7

Adjusted Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population: 18.4

STILL BIRTHS:

					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Total ...					1	2	3

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of total (live and still births): 12.1

DEATHS:

Males, 77; Females, 52	...	...	...	...	129
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...	...	9.3
Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...	...	9.9
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	...	Nil

NUMBER OF DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE:

					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Total ...					5	—	5

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	20.5
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	17.5
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	66.6
Neo-natal Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	20.5
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	20.5
Peri-natal Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	32.4

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION FROM :

Heart and circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	3.26
Cancer	...	...	...	...	1.23
Vascular lesions of the Nervous System	...	...	...	...	1.09
Respiratory Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System)	...	...	...	...	1.09

VITAL STATISTICS

Population

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population at mid-1963 was 13,810 as compared with 13,870 at mid-1962. The natural increase of the population, i.e., the excess of births over deaths, was 115 compared with 114 for the previous year.

Comparability Factors

Area comparability factors in respect of Births and Deaths have been supplied by the Registrar-General and for your district these are 1.04 and 1.06 respectively. The approximation of both factors to unity indicates that your population nearly approaches by age and sex distribution the standard population of the country.

Births

After adjustment for inward and outward transferable births a net total of 244 live births was registered during the year, an increase of three as compared with the previous year.

The adjusted birth rate was 18.4 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 17.4 for the previous year and 18.2 for England and Wales.

Still Births

After adjustment for transfers, three still births were registered during the year as compared with two for the previous year. The still birth rate was 12.1 per 1,000 (live and still) births as compared with 8.2 for the previous year and with 17.2 for England and Wales.

Deaths

After correction for inward and outward transferable deaths, the net total deaths registered in and assigned to the Rural District was 129, an increase of two as compared with the previous year.

The adjusted death rate was 9.9 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 10.4 for the previous year. The death rate for England and Wales was 12.2 per 1,000 of the population.

The principal causes of death in order of numerical importance were: Diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System, Vascular lesions of the Nervous System, Cancer and Respiratory Diseases.

Infant Mortality

The infant mortality rate was 20.5 per 1,000 live births as compared with 8.3 for the previous year and with 21.1 for England and Wales.

Deaths in Age Groups

						<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	5	—	5
1— 5 years	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5—15 years	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
15—25 years	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
25—35 years	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
35—45 years	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
45—55 years	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	5
55—65 years	...	...	...	...	...	14	8	22
65—75 years	...	...	...	...	...	21	14	35
75 years and over	...	...	...	...	...	30	27	57
ALL CAUSES						77	52	129

Causes of Death in 1963

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	4	3	7
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	1	5
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	1	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	—	3
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	1	—	1
16. Diabetes	—	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	18	27
18. Coronary disease, angina	20	6	26
19. Hypertension with heart disease .	—	1	1
20. Other heart disease	8	4	12
21. Other circulatory disease	5	1	6
22. Influenza	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	5	2	7
24. Bronchitis	4	2	6
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa .	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	2	1	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	7	15
33. Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—
34. All other accidents	—	1	1
35. Suicide	1	—	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
ALL CAUSES ...	77	52	129

Infant Mortality in 1963

Causes of Death	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total under 1 year
Congenital Malformations ...	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Prematurity ...	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
TOTALS ...	5	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	5

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

Water samples taken during 1963.—

Public	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	)	All were
Private	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	)	satisfactory

The main water is supplied to the district by the following Authorities:—

Southern Parishes and Potten End—Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company.

Northern Parishes—Luton Water Compnay.

There are still a few premises with private supplies, particularly seven bungalows in Rucklers Lane, Kings Langley, several premises at Water End, a few farms in the Northern Parishes and cottages at Markyate, one of which is dependent on rain water. There are now very few premises dependent on stand pipe supplies.

All main water in the district is of excellent bacterial quality and no restrictions were imposed during the year.

Steps have been taken to procure main water supply to one factory and one public house on the A.5 road at Flamstead.

Rainfall

The rainfall for 1963 was 26.84 inches (1962—27.84 inches). The official average is 28.6 inches. The wettest months were August (3.53 inches) and November (5.46 inches). The weather of the year was characterised by the great cold of the first three months.

Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies

The Council have raised no objection to the addition of fluoride to the main supply. It is understood that the supply of the Luton Water Company has 0.19 parts per million of fluoride present and the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley supply has not more than 0.05 parts per million.

Particulars of the number of dwelling houses and population supplied from the public water mains are shown in the following table. Caravans have been excluded:—

Parish	Population	(a) Direct to Houses		(b) By means of Standpipes	
		Houses	Pop'n	Houses	Pop'n
Bovingdon	3,077	933	3,077	Nil	Nil
Flamstead	1,425	432	1,425	Nil	Nil
Flaunden	228	69	228	Nil	Nil
Great Gaddesden	1,267	383	1,263	Nil	Nil
Kings Langley	5,458	1,654	5,458	Nil	Nil
Chipperfield	1,894	564	1,864	10	30
Markyate	2,788	840	2,760	Nil	Nil

All figures are estimated.

Swimming Baths

There is a swimming bath, complete with chlorination plant, at Bovingdon County Primary School. All water samples were satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SANITATION

Sewerage and Drainage

All the major villages are now sewered with the exception of Chipperfield and that portion of Kings Langley adjoining. During the year the sewerage of Potten End was completed and the re-laying of the main sewer in Markyate was put in hand.

The delay in the Chipperfield drainage scheme has caused many difficulties due partly to the necessity of emptying many of the cesspools frequently and the need to continue the pail closet service. Because of geographical considerations it now seems likely that part of the village will be drained towards Kings Langley and part towards Sarratt.

A successful campaign was completed during the year to require owners of property in Markyate to provide separate water closets for each property. Previously many of the old cottages shared W.C. accommodation, a relict of the past which perhaps even the property owners were glad to see abolished.

Farm Drainage

Two major drainage schemes were completed in the year remedying nuisances which for long had been troublesome. The co-existence of farms and urban development in rural areas creates many drainage problems. The local sewage plant is often unable to accept the strong effluent from farm sewage and the housing tenants often protest against the more primitive sewage disposal methods of the neighbouring farms.

Cesspool Emptying

The volume of work entailed in cesspool emptying remained about the same although because of the completion of new sewerage schemes it might have been expected to diminish. During the year 3,573 loads were removed (3,538 in the previous year). However, the financial pressure of increased charges for emptying cesspools at least encouraged some owners to connect to the new sewers and others to replace existing earth closets by water closets.

Cesspool emptying, though on a small scale, is still carried out for the Berkhamsted Urban District Council.

The contents of the cesspool vehicles are emptied into sewers where available but in unsewered areas disposal is by land irrigation, a method which often involves long haulages and so increases the cost of the service.

There are a few premises where pails are not emptied, but these are limited to four condemned houses at Pepperstock and a few premises in Dunstable Road, Markyate.

E.C. Collection

At the end of the year the number of premises with pail closets was 154, of which 35 were emptied twice a week (comparative figures were 252 and 79 last year).

Refuse Disposal

The institution of regular weekly collections throughout the district, possibly aided by the cool summer, brought a welcome relief in the refuse disposal problems at the Nash Mills tipping site. The reconstruction of the adjacent railway bridge provided ample covering material for use on the tip. With proper compaction of the refuse the tip should generate sufficient heat to kill fly larvae and regular weekly emptying of dustbins helps to prevent already fly infested refuse arriving at the tip.

The available tipping space at the Nash Mills site is rapidly being filled and the expected life of the tip is now less than five years.

Refuse Collection

With the institution in May of a weekly collection round a bonus scheme for the refuse teams was adopted by the Council. As a direct result labour relations have been greatly improved, labour shortages have become less of a problem and the weekly collections have proceeded without undue interruptions. The latest type of the large refuse collection vehicles were introduced allowing a reduction of the number of vehicles in regular service from three to two. Despite the increases in wages and equipment the total cost of the service is still within reasonable limits.

The use of the larger type of refuse vehicle made it necessary to improve the approach roads to the tip and caused a garage accommodation problem.

A new but unwanted refuse collection round had to be started last year, the collection and subsequent disposal of derelict old cars abandoned principally on the Council's car parks but also on the highway verges. To tow these wrecks to the refuse tip a special lifting machine had to be purchased. An attempt to establish the owner of the vehicle had to be made in each instance, a measure which was not only costly in time but which also involved a search fee of five shillings. Twenty-five such abandoned vehicles were dealt with last year and the problem of their disposal becomes ever increasingly difficult.

It will be appreciated that these derelict vehicles not only mar the countryside by their ugliness but also constitute a real danger to children from cuts and abrasions and even more serious injuries perhaps from exploding petrol tanks when matches are struck.

Indiscriminate Dumping

Quite apart from the dumping of derelict vehicles on the highway verges other odd items such as old bedsteads and perambulators often litter the countryside. The deposit of such litter is rapidly becoming a national problem particularly in rural areas and its collection is expensive. The weekly collection of household refuse should alleviate some of the litter problem on the Council housing states.

One particular bad site for dumping last year was on the road between Flaunden and Chenies where a partly-filled dell hole at the side of the road seemed to exert an almost magnetic attraction for the indiscriminate dumper. Eventually the dell hole became so full that the material overflowed into the road. With the co-operation of the Divisional Highways Supervisor of the County Council a high banking was constructed at this spot and the nuisance from dumping finally ceased.

Some of the excuses made by people caught in the act of dumping were ingenious, the best perhaps that litter was not being dumped but actually taken away to tidy the site.

The subject of indiscriminate dumping cannot be left without some mention of the activities of gipsies and other nomadic caravan dwellers who are often the worst offenders. The mess of litter and partly dismantled vehicles they so often leave behind has to be seen to be believed.

By erecting concrete posts to block the entry of vehicles certain areas in the northern parts of your district were partly saved from the depredations of these people. The itinerant caravan dweller has become a national problem and in Hertfordshire the County Council has asked for concerted action in the provision of Local Authority owned and controlled caravan sites. Whatever the feelings of individual Councils it is probably true to say that once these people establish themselves on an unauthorised site their eviction is almost impossible without the provision of another site.

The Winter of 1963

No report of the sanitary conditions of the area would be complete without comment upon the effects of last year's extremely severe winter. Beginning at the end of the previous December the very cold spell lasted until the middle of March. Heavy snowfalls rendered roads impassable and journeys within the district were severely curtailed. In spite of the adverse conditions the refuse collection service was maintained without major breakdowns. The emptying of cesspools and the collection of night soil had to be restricted. In the appalling conditions which prevailed over so long a period the workmen showed undaunted courage in sticking so nobly to their jobs and the community owe them its thanks.

Freezing of the water mains was a common complaint and many families were without water supply for a period. As expected it was the older people who suffered most because they were unable to do the job of de-freezing and often could not afford to have it done. With help from the Council and kindly neighbours water supplies were usually restored before the inconvenience became too great.

The need to protect water pipes and heating pipes from frost damage was a lesson learned by bitter experience by so many that few are ever likely to forget it.

PEST CONTROL

The number of complaints received for rat and mice infestations rose to 91, an increase of 33 over the previous year. The number of annual contracts for rodent control was 41 which yielded an income of £310. Rat infestation was greater in the Autumn than normal and the number of treatments requested put a great strain on the resources of the department.

Because of the poor Summer requests for wasp and bee control were unusually small. Other pests dealt with included moles, rabbits, squirrels and earwigs.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors):

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	59	21	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)... ..	6	5	—	—
TOTAL	68	28	—	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

Particulars	Number of Cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	2	2	—	—	—

3. Outworkers Nil

SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE PUBIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Visits and Inspections

GENERAL :

Houses, Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	272
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	3
Water Supply	...	...	...	31
Drainage	...	...	...	136
Caravan Sites	...	...	...	91
Public Cleansing	...	...	...	121
Schools	...	...	...	28
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	125
Interviews	...	...	...	182
Petroleum Storage	...	...	...	36

FOOD PREMISES :

Butchers and slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	136
Other food premises	...	...	...	...	...	87

Notices Served and Complied with

				Outstanding 31.12.62	Served 1963	Completed 1963	Outstanding 31.12.63
Formal	...	...	...	2	7	9	—
Informal	...	...	...	21	68	71	18
Total ...				23	75	80	18

Nuisances and Defects Remedied

Dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Houses with defective windows and doors					...	...	...	5
Dangerous structures			...	...	...	...	...	5
Houses with defective roofs	...		...	...	...	...	...	6
Cleanliness	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Wall and ceiling plaster			...	...	...	...	...	5
Pail closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous		...	...	...	...	...	...	23

HOUSING

Experience during the year revealed defects in the working of the Housing Acts, particularly with regard to enforcing repairs in privately owned properties. Amongst the factors creating difficulties were:—

- (a) the extreme difficulty in obtaining genuine estimates from builders to carry out repairs to poor type property, both by owners and Councils;
- (b) the value of worn-out property because of the site value.

The effect of the last factor is to make owners anxious for the local Authority to make a demolition order. A house with a demolition order enables the owner to obtain possession, even against a statutory tenant. It follows that the Local Authority is virtually compelled to re-house the tenant, whereupon the owner reconditions the property, often with the aid of a grant, and obtains cheap accommodation.

In one particular instance the owner of four cottages, which had been condemned years previously, persuaded the Council to make an Order and later re-house the tenants. The vacated cottages were then, after building reconstruction, sold, it is believed, by the owner for a sum of £4,000 for each dwelling. Since the new owners took over their properties, structural additions to each cottage have had to be made to bring the cottages up to a more average unit of accommodation.

Improvement of Older Properties

During the year the Council virtually completed modernisation of the older type of Council house in the Northern parishes. The number of Council houses modernised was 44 (previous to this year 105).

It is the Council's policy to encourage the modernisation of all older type of properties which are in a fair condition, and during the year 14 Standard Grants and 24 Discretionary Grants were paid.

Some difficulty was experienced with premises in multiple occupation. In one instance the owner was asked to appear before the Council to explain why he had converted his property into small flats without providing adequate facilities for each tenant and to justify the very high rent he proposed to charge.

To encourage owners to improve their properties with an improvement grant from the Council, a survey of one area was made. In a group of 64 older type houses the majority of the owner/occupiers were keen to improve their properties and most of them, in fact, did so. It was with the owners of rented properties where there was a reluctance to make the necessary improvements.

The housing needs of the District are yet unsatisfied and the Council must continue building houses for rent even in the face of still heavier building costs.

During the year the following houses were:—

(a) Commenced only:

	Local Authority		Private Enterprise
	Number	Type	
Permanent Prefabricated	Nil	—	1
Permanent Brick	33	3-bedroom houses (9); 1-bedroom flats (12); 1-bedroom bungalows (12)	18

(b) Completed:

	Local Authority		Private Enterprise
	Number	Type	
Permanent Prefabricated	Nil	—	1
Permanent Brick	8	3-bedroom houses	34

The position in regard to HOUSING SCHEMES at 31.12.63 was as follows:—

(a) **Particulars of Schemes (or Contracts) completed since 1.1.45 up to 31.12.63:**

Site	Number of houses	Type
Markyate:		
Buckwood Road	45	Brick, 3-bedroom parlour and non-parlour
Buckwood Road	11	Arcon, 2-bedroom, Temporary
Cowper Road	61	Brick, 3-bedroom, parlour and non-parlour, 2-bedroom and 1-bedroom flats
Home Farm Estate	118	Brick, 2 and 3-bedroom houses; 1-bedroom flats
Kings Langley:		
Rucklers Lane	36	Uni-Seco, 2-bedroom, temporary (24), Brick 3-bedroom, parlour (12)
Barnes Estate	45	Brick, 3-bedroom, parlour and non-parlour, and 2-bedroom
Bury Estate	30	Unity, 2-bedroom bungalows
Coniston Road	6	Brick, 2-bedroom, non-parlour
Wesley Estate	42	Brick, 3-bedroom, non-parlour; 2-bedroom and 1-bedroom flats
Edmund Estate	80	3-bedroom houses, 1 and 2-bedroom flats and bungalows
Waterside	11	3-bedroom houses(3); 1-bedroom flats(8)
Flamstead	53	Brick, 2 and 3-bedroom, parlour and non-parlour; Airey & Timber, 3-bedroom, parlour (10)
Chipperfield :		
Nunfield	36	Brick, 3-bedroom, parlour and non-parlour; 2-bedroom and 1-bedroom flats
Croft Estate	44	2 and 3-bedroom
Bovingdon :		
Hyde Meadows	129	Brick, Airey & Unity; 3-bedroom, parlour and non-parlour
Old Dean	36	2-bedroom flats
Bovingdon	30	3-bedroom, non-parlour
Gaddesden Row:		
Jockey End	12	Brick, 3-bedroom, parlour and non-parlour
Great Gaddesden	30	Brick, 3-bedroom, parlour and non-parlour
Flaunden	6	3-bedroom, non-parlour

(b) **Particulars of Schemes (or Contracts) commenced, but not completed at 31.12.63:**

Site	No. of Houses	Type	No. commenced	No. completed
Flamstead				
Trowley Hill Road ...	3	3-bedroom houses	3	—
Markyate				
(Buckwood Road) ...	12	1-bedroom bungalows	12	—
Kings Langley				
Waterside.....	12	1-bedroom flats	12	—

(c) **Particulars of Schemes (or Contracts) projected, i.e., Schemes about which arrangements are in hand, but where a start had not been made at 31.12.63:**

Site	Proposed No. of Houses	Type
Bovingdon Vicarage Lane	3	1-bedroom flats
Chipperfield Croft End Road.....	9	3-bedroom houses
Kings Langley Edmund Estate	30	2 and 3-bedroom houses
Great Gaddesden Church Meadows ...	2	3-bedroom houses
Flamstead Singlets Lane	8	1-bedroom flats

Number of applicants for Council houses at the end of 1963: 141

Caravans

The year saw the virtual completion of the site works, etc., on the larger sites. An application was received to increase the number of caravans on the Stagg Farm site to 80 but it was rejected by the Council.

The number of licensed caravans remained unchanged at 96.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947

There are no premises within the district for the manufacture of ice cream. All shops sell the pre-packed ice cream and all samples submitted for laboratory examination proved satisfactory. Soft ice cream is a newly introduced product which is manufactured in the vehicle from which it is sold. Careful watch will need to be kept on this product to ensure it matches the standard of the pre-packed variety.

Slaughterhouses

There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the district both situate in the parish of Bovingdon. One is rarely used while the other, of modern construction, increases in usage as the months go by. From the modest level of 200 to 250 units a month the output rose in October to over 700 and it may be that the output will continue at this high level.

The introduction of the Meat Inspection Regulations last year increased the work of meat inspection. An arrangement was made with the owner of the main slaughterhouse to slaughter only on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays to fit in with the other work of the department and it was agreed that so long as these terms were adhered to the inspections would be free of charge. Unfortunately the arrangements were not kept and the whole question of meat inspection at this slaughterhouse is under review.

Assistance was sought from the Borough Council for meat inspection during periods of absence.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part:

	Cattle excl- uding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Hor- ses
Number killed	210	13	359	863	1,618	—
Number inspected	210	13	359	863	1,618	—
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCU- LOSIS AND CYSTICERCI:						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	3	2	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	37	2	1	2	18	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerchi	18	16	0.4	0.5	1	—
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	1	—	—	7	—
Percentage of the number insepct- ed affected with tuberculosis...	0.5	7	—	—	0.4	—
CYSTICERCOSIS :						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Foodstuffs found Unfit for Human Consumption

Apart from miscellaneous items, one tin of cereal for infant use was submitted for inspection during the very cold weather, the presence of glass being alleged. The “glass” melted in the office!

Two milk bottles were submitted as being unclean, but were found to be “scuffed” by chemical action during cleansing.

One bottle of beer was submitted, having a cork bottled with the contents.

One frozen dinner was submitted, including some foreign body of unknown origin.

One loaf of bread submitted as having mice dirts proved to be affected by small particles of burnt carbon.

Sixty-seven miscellaneous tins of food were surrendered for condemnation.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Table showing cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year:—

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	2	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	5	Nil	Nil
Measles	157	Nil	Nil
Dysentery	1	1	Nil

Analysis of Notified Cases under Age Groups

Age Groups	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	Dysentery
Under 1 year	—	1	1	—
1— 2 years	—	—	9	—
2— 3 „	—	1	17	—
3— 4 „	—	1	15	—
4— 5 „	—	1	22	—
5—10 „	1	1	82	1
10—15 „	—	—	5	—
15—20 „	—	—	1	—
20—35 „	1	—	1	—
35—45 „	—	—	—	—
45—65 „	—	—	—	—
65 years and over	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	4	—
Total Cases notified	2	5	157	1

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table gives details of the number of cases on the Notification Register, together with particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from Tuberculosis during the year:—

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Number of cases on the Register at 1st January, 1963	45	34	7	10
Number of cases notified for the first time during the year	—	1	—	1
Number of cases added to the Register other than by notification (i.e. transfers in, etc.)	2	1	—	—
Number of cases removed from the Register during the year :	3	7	—	1
Number of cases remaining on the Register at the end of the year	44	29	7	10

Age (years)		New Cases				Deaths			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0— 1	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
35—45	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65&upwards	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	...	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—

URBAN DISTRICT OF BERKHAMSTED



Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health

1963

URBAN DISTRICT OF BERKHAMSTED

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

1. General Statistics

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,982 acres
Registrar-General's estimate of population, mid-1963	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,990
Number of inhabited houses according to Valuation List at 31st December, 1963	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,580
Rateable Value at 31st December, 1963	...	...	...	...	...	...	£692,797
Sum represented by a penny rate, 1963/64	...	...	...	...	...	...	£2,761

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics

LIVE BIRTHS:

					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	117	121	238
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	7	4	11
Total					124	125	249

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population: 17.8

Adjusted Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population: 18.3

STILL BIRTHS:

					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total					1	—	1

Still-birth Rate per 1,000 of total (live and still) births: 4.0

DEATHS:

Males 62, Females 75	...	...	...	...	...	...	137
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.8
Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.7
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

NUMBER OF DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE:

					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	1	4	5
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total					1	4	5

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	20.1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	...	...	...	...	21.0
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	...	...	...	...	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	16.1
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	12.0
Peri-natal Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	16.0

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION FROM :

Heart and Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	3.93
Cancer	...	...	...	...	1.36
Respiratory Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	1.57
Vascular lesions of the Nervous System	...	...	...	...	1.36

VITAL STATISTICS

Population

The Registrar-General’s estimation of the population at mid-1963 was 13,990 as compared with 13,760 at mid-1962. The natural increase of the population, i.e., excess of births over deaths was 112.

Comparability Factors

Area comparability factors for Births and Deaths as supplied by the Registrar-General were 1.03 and 1.09 respectively. The close approximation of both factors to unity indicates that the population of your district nearly approaches by age and sex distribution the standard population of the country.

The slightly higher comparability factor for births does, however, indicate an increase in the numbers in the lower age groups.

Births

After adjustment for inward and outward transferable births a net total of 249 live births was registered during the year, an increase of ten on the previous year.

The adjusted birth rate was 18.3 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 17.0 for the previous year and with 18.2 for England and Wales.

Still Births

After adjustment for transfers, one still-birth was registered during the year. The still-birth rate was 4.0 per 1,000 (live and still) births as compared with nil in the previous year and 17.2 for England and Wales.

Deaths

After correction for inward and outward transferable deaths, the net total deaths registered in and assigned to the district was 137 (62 males, 75 females), a decrease of eight on the total for the year 1962.

The adjusted death rate was 10.7 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 11.4 for the previous year and with 12.2 for England and Wales.

The principal causes of death in order of numerical importance were: Diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System, Respiratory Diseases, Cancer and Vascular lesions of the Nervous System.

Infant Mortality

The infant mortality rate was 20.1 per 1,000 live births as compared with 4.2 for the previous year and with 21.1 for England and Wales.

Deaths in Age Groups

					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 1 year ...	...	...	...	...	1	4	5
1— 5 years ...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
5—15 years ...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
15—25 years ...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
25—35 years ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
35—45 years ...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
45—55 years ...	...	...	...	...	5	2	7
55—65 years ...	...	...	...	...	10	7	17
65—75 years ...	...	...	...	...	18	13	31
75 years and over ...	...	...	...	...	22	48	70
ALL CAUSES ...					62	75	137

Causes of Death in 1963

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	1	2	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	—	4
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	1	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2	8	10
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	1	—	1
16. Diabetes	1	—	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	14	19
18. Coronary disease, angina	13	5	18
19. Hypertension with heart disease .	1	3	4
20. Other heart disease	10	14	24
21. Other circulatory disease	3	6	9
22. Influenza	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	7	6	13
24. Bronchitis	5	4	9
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa .	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	1	2	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	5	10
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	—	1
34. All other accidents	2	4	6
35. Suicide	—	—	—
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
ALL CAUSES ...	62	75	137

Infant Mortality in 1963

Causes of Death	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total under 1 year
Congenital Malformations ...	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	2
Prematurity	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonitis ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
TOTALS	3	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	1	5

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER

Town Supply

The Statutory Undertakers for the whole of the Urban District are the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company.

Water is obtained from three boreholes sunk into the chalk at Berkhamsted Pumping Station where all water is chlorinated before passing to supply. There are two covered reservoirs, one containing 370,000 gallons and the other 300,000 gallons. The average daily water consumption was approximately 950,000 gallons.

The water is hard, therefore no action has been necessary for plumbo-solvent contaminatoin. The fluoride content of the water does not exceed 0.05 p.p.m. (F).

In addition to samples taken by the Water Company, samples are taken from various premises within the district and are submitted monthly by this Council for bacteriological examination.

The beginning of the year will be remembered for the disruption of water supply to hundreds of houses during the “freeze-up.” Emergency standpipes were installed at various points by the Water Company and the after effects of frost damage have not yet been entirely repaired.

Private Supplies

A laundry, one factory and the Council’s swimming bath obtain water from boreholes.

Particulars of the number of dwelling houses and the number of population supplied from public water mains is shown in the following table: —

Population (estimated)	(a) Supply direct to Houses		(b) Supply by means of Standpipes	
	Houses	Population	Houses	Population
14,863	4,477	14,863	—	—

Water Samples taken during 1963

Description of Samples	Number of Samples					
	Bacteriological Exam.			Chemical Exam.		
	Taken	Satis.	Unsatis.	Taken	Satis.	Unsatis.
Main Supply: Chlorinated.....	9	9	—	—	—	—
Private Supplies:	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swimming Baths:	21	21	—	—	—	—
Main Water:	Total Hardness 240 p.p.m.					

Swimming Baths

There are four swimming baths within the district.

1. *Town Baths.* An open air swimming bath, constructed in 1925, owned and managed by the Council.

Water is obtained from an 80-ft. borehole and is changed once every year before the season commences. The capacity is 80,000 gallons. Purification is effected by continuous filtration through a sand pressure filter, the turnover period being six hours. The break point method of chlorination is used. Aeration is carried out after chlorination. Proprietary chemicals are added for pH adjustment. Plans for the extension of the bath have been deferred for further consideration during 1964.

Samples are taken fortnightly during the summer for bacteriological examination. Six samples were submitted and all were satisfactory.

2. *Ashlyns School.* A covered swimming bath, constructed 1934, owned and managed by the Hertfordshire County Council and used by the staff and pupils of the School.

Water is obtained from the main supply and is changed six times every year. The capacity is 40,000 gallons.

Purification is effected by continuous filtration through sand pressure filters, the turnover period being four hours. Marginal chlorination is carried out and proprietary chemicals are added for pH adjustment. The water is heated by a calorifier.

Samples are taken by the County Council.

3. *Berkhamsted School*. A covered swimming bath, constructed in 1890, owned and managed by the School and used by its staff and pupils.

Water is obtained from the main supply and is changed annually during the August holidays. The capacity is 40,000 gallons.

Purification is effected by continuous filtration through pressure sand filters, the turnover period being ten hours. Marginal chlorination is carried out and proprietary chemicals are added for pH adjustment. Nine samples were taken and were satisfactory.

4. *Berkhamsted School for Girls*. An open air swimming bath, constructed in 1935, owned and managed by the School and used by its staff and pupils.

Water is obtained from the main supply and is changed annually prior to the summer season. The capacity is 80,000 gallons.

Purification is effected by continuous filtration through pressure sand filters, the turnover period being six hours. Marginal chlorination is carried out by a chlorinator using chlorine gas. Proprietary chemicals and soda are added for pH adjustment.

Five samples were taken and were satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SANITATION

Purification of sewage is carried out at the Council's sewage disposal works. The effluent is discharged into the Grand Union Canal. Ten samples of effluent were taken during the year, and eight complied with the recommended standards.

The majority of premises in the district are connected to sewers, but there are approximately 108 cesspools and septic tanks which are emptied when necessary by a neighbouring authority. The cost of emptying is recovered from the owners of the properties.

PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICES

Refuse Collection

Refuse is collected from all premises weekly. A charge is levied on trade premises where more than one bin load per week is collected. Accumulations and lumber are collected from private dwelling houses for a set charge of ten shillings.

The Incentive Bonus Scheme for the two loader-drivers and eight collectors has been continued. A pilot scheme for paper sack refuse collection was instituted in one hundred Council houses.

Two Dennis Paxit II vehicles are used for refuse collection and a Karrier Dual Tip is kept in reserve.

Refuse Disposal

All refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping. Two men are employed and a Bristol Duplex Tractor is used to assist compaction and control.

In order to discourage indiscriminate dumping within the District, free tipping facilities are available.

In co-operation with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, arrangements have been made at the tip for the disposal of a small quantity of radio-active waste.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES
 Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the
 Factories Act, 1937

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors):

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	2	4	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	54	66	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	6	8	—	—
TOTAL	62	78	—	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found Nil

3. OUTWORKERS:

Making wearing apparel 3

SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Visits and Inspections

GENERAL :

Houses—Public Health Acts	96
Housing Act	22
Improvement Grants	122
Overcrowding	1
Infectious Diseases	2
Water Supplies and sampling visits	33
Drainage and sewerage	101
Cesspools	28
Factories, workplaces and building sites	78
Shops Act (plus food shops)	88
Interviews	162
Pests Act—rats and mice	29
Wasps' Nests destroyed	42
Accumulation of refuse	60
Refuse collection	159
Refuse disposal	90
Swimming baths	21
Cinema	3
Sanitary accommodation	7
Insect pests	13
Woodworm—Council houses treated	2
Moveable dwellings	25
Glis-Glis infestation	1
Noise abatement	3
Clean Air Acts	31

FOOD PREMISES

Slaughterhouses	63
Food shops and food vans	137
Bakehouses	53
Restaurants, dining rooms, kitchens	49

Notices Served and Complied with

	Outstanding 31.12.62	Served 1963	Completed 1963	Outstanding 31.12.63
PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS				
Informal	5	60	57	8
Formal	—	10	8	2
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT				
Informal	—	14	11	3
CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT				
Informal	—	2	1	1
CLEAN AIR ACT				
Informal	—	1	—	1

Nuisances Abated: Defects and Contraventions Remedied

Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	115
Moveable dwellings removed			...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

A Pest Destruction Officer is employed whose services are shared with Tring U.D.C. and Berkhamsted R.D.C.

During the year 182 infestations of brown rats, 10 of house mice, and three of glis-glises were dealt with.

For the majority of infestations, Warfarin with an oatmeal base was used for poisoning.

Charges are not made for treatment at dwelling-houses.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

One shop only is registered and Statutory conditions are observed.

Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956

There are two farms within the district to which the Act applies. Both comply with the statutory requirements.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no common lodging houses within the district.

HOUSING

Slum Clearance

(1) 50-59 Castle Street

Nine houses in a confirmed clearance order were demolished.

(2) 14-24 New Road, Northchurch

Fourteen houses in a confirmed compulsory Purchase Order were demolished.

(3) 77-82 Gossoms End

Six houses were similarly demolished.

(4) 1-8 Norris's Terrace

Eight houses were similarly demolished.

(5) **1-7 River Terrace**

Seven houses were similarly demolished.

(6) Two Individual unfit houses were closed.

(7) Due to lack of Council houses, it was not possible to forward any Orders to the Minister for confirmaiton.

Rent Act, 1957

One application was received for a certificate of dis-repair, which was granted.

Standard Improvement Grants

Thirty-two applications were received during the year; one was withdrawn, four were refused and 25 approved; 28 grants have been paid and one repaid.

The following summary of the position in regard to the provision of Council houses is given by your Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. B. E. A. Badman:—

“With regard to the schemes at Lagley and Billet Lane, the Council decided that the latter was one which should be dealt with first, and planning permission is now applied for. Details of the scheme are with the Quantity Surveyors and it is anticipated that tenders will be invited during the year.

The Council also decided to appoint Messrs. Clifford Culpin and Partners, Chartered Architects and Planning Consultants, to submit a residential layout for them at Ashlyns Estate and this is now in course of preparation.”

During the year the following houses were:—

(a) **Commenced only:**

	Local Authority		Private Enterprise
	Number	Type	
Permanent Brick	Nil	—	103

(b) **Completed:**

	Local Authority		Private Enterprise
	Number	Type	
Permanent Brick	Nil	—	116

The position in regard to HOUSING SCHEMES at 31.12.63 was as follows:—

(a) **Particulars of Schemes completed since 1.1.45 to 31.12.63:**

Site	Number of Houses	Type
Highfield House Estate ...	30	Prefabricated bungalows
Swing Gate Lane Estate .	20	Brick, 3-bedroom, non-parlour
Victoria Road	10	Unity, 3-bedroom, parlour
Durrants Farm Estate ...	430	Brick, 4-bedroom; 3-bedroom; 2-bedroom; Old Persons Bungalows; single persons' flats
Westfield Estate (No. 1)...	18	Brick houses (14); bungalows (4)
Westfield Estate (No. 2)...	80	2 and 3-bedroom houses and Old Person's Dwellings and flats
Westfield Estate (No. 3) ...	104	2 and 3-bedroom houses; 1-bedroom bungalows; 1 and 2-bedroom flats.
"Lagley" (conversion) ...	7	1 and 2-bedroom flats

(b) **Particulars of Schemes (or Contracts) projected, i.e., Schemes about which arrangements are in hand, but where a start had not been made at 31.12.63:**

Site	Proposed No. of Houses	Type
Lagley	32	Bungalows and 2-storey dwellings
Billet Lane	39	Flats and Maisonettes
Ashlyns	342	3 and 4-bedroom houses; 1 and 2-bedroom flats

Number of applicants for Council houses at the end of 1963 ... 290

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Number and Type of Food Premises at 31st December, 1963

Bakehouses	5
Butchers	12
Cafés and Restaurants	15
Canteens	4
Clubs	6
Confectioners, flour	8
Confectioners, sugar	15
Dairies	2
Fishmongers—wet and dried fish only	3
Fishmongers—wet and dried and fried fish	2
Greengrocers	9
Grocers (retail)	33
Licensed premises (not including off-licences)	18
Licensed premises (serving main meals)	5
Guest Houses	1
Nursing Homes	1
Registered for sausage making and food preservation, etc.	18
Registered for manufacture of ice cream	2

Registered for sale of ice cream	...	...	...	...	...	41
School kitchens	...	...	...	...	...	19
Slaughterhouse	...	...	...	...	...	1

Milk Distribution

All milk sold in the district is Pasteurised, Tuberculin-Tested, Tuberculin-Tested (Pasteurised) or Sterilised.

There are two registered dairies and the six retail distributors who sell milk which is bottled or cartoned outside the district.

Ice Cream

Forty-one premises are registered for the retail sale of ice cream. The ice cream sold is prepacked and exclusive to national proprietary brands.

Two premises are registered for manufacture. One of these is limited to the manufacture of “soft” ice cream only.

Slaughterhouses

Slaughtering is confined to one small private slaughterhouse which complies with the construction regulations. All the meat is inspected after office hours. The arrangements with Hemel Hempstead Borough Council for a relief Meat Inspector were continued following the introduction of the Meat Inspection Regulations 1963, and no untoward difficulty was experienced.

The following table shows the extent of Tuberculosis and other diseases found on post-mortem examination of animals slaughtered in the district during 1963:

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part:

	Cattle excl- uding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	247	1	18	746	98
Number inspected	247	1	18	746	98
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI:					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	18	—	—	2	4
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	7.2	—	—	0.4	4.0
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	1
Percentage of the number insp- ected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	1.0

No horses were slaughtered and no cysticercosis was found

Foodstuffs found to be Unfit for Human Consumption

Eleven complaints were made by consumers that food they had purchased was not fit. A thorough investigation was carried out in each case. In eight instances warning letters were sent to the manufacturer and in one instance the manufacturer was prosecuted.

Unfit foodstuffs are disposed of under supervision at the Council's refuse tip. The following were also dealt with after voluntary surrender:

Meat and offal from slaughterhouse	...	...	...	...	654 lbs.
Tinned Food	...	...	...	...	685 tins
Tinned Meat	...	...	...	...	2 tins
Butchers' meat and offal	...	...	...	...	4 lbs.
Salt	...	...	...	...	112 lbs.
Flour	...	...	...	...	30 lbs.

Prosecutions

- (1) A cake purchased by a housewife was found to contain tobacco. A fine of £5 0s. 0d. was imposed together with costs of £12 0s. 0d.
- (2) The manager of a restaurant refused admittance to the Public Health Inspector. A fine of £3 0s. 0d. was imposed together with costs of 5 guineas. An appeal was lodged but was subsequently abandoned and further costs were awarded to the extent of £12 17s. 0d.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Table showing cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	1	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	47	Nil	Nil
Measles	174	Nil	Nil
Dysentery	5	Nil	Nil
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	Nil
Acute Pneumonia	4	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas	2	Nil	Nil
Food Poisoning	1	1	Nil

Analysis of Notified Cases under Age Groups

Age Groups	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	Dysentery	Meningococcal Infection	Acute Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning
Under 1 year	—	4	3	—	—	—	—	—
1— 2 years	—	2	13	—	1	—	—	—
2— 3 „	—	2	17	—	—	—	—	—
3— 4 „	—	4	22	—	—	—	—	—
4— 5 „	—	3	20	—	—	—	—	—
5—10 „	—	26	78	—	—	—	—	—
10—15 „	—	5	12	—	—	1	—	—
15—20 „	—	1	6	—	—	—	—	—
20—35 „	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 „	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
45—65 „	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
65 years and upwards ...	—	—	—	5	—	1	1	1
Age unknown	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Total Cases Notified	1	47	174	5	1	4	2	1

TUBERCULOSIS

The following Tables give details of the number of cases on the Notification Register, together with particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from Tuberculosis during the year:—

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Number of cases on the Register at 1st January, 1963	41	59	2	8
Number of cases notified for the first time during the year	—	—	1	—
Number of cases added to the Register other than by notification (i.e. transfers in, etc.)	—	3	—	—
Number of cases removed from the Register during the year :	5	9	—	3
Number of cases remaining on the Register at the end of the year	36	53	3	5

Age (years)	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0— 1 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 years ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—

RURAL DISTRICT OF BERKHAMSTED



Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health

1963

RURAL DISTRICT OF BERKHAMSTED

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

1. General Statistics

The Rural District of Berkhamsted is composed of the parishes of Northchurch, Aldbury, Wigginton, Tring Rural, Nettleden (with Potten End) and Little Gaddesden, which comprises an area of 17,572 acres.

Registrar-General's estimate of population, mid-1963	...	6,450
Number of inhabited houses according to Valuation List at 31st December, 1963	... ..	2,064
Rateable Value at 31st December, 1963	... ..	£241,137
Sum represented by a penny rate, 1963/64	... ..	£940

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics

LIVE BIRTHS:

					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	53	60	113
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	3	4	7
Total					56	64	120

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population: 18.6

Adjusted Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population: 20.1

STILL BIRTHS:

					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total					1	1	2

Still-birth Rate per 1,000 of total (live and still) births: 16.4

DEATHS:

Males 38, Females 35	...	...	...	...	...	73
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...	...	...	11.3
Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...	...	...	11.2
Deaths from puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

NUMBER OF DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE:

					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total					2	2	4

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	33.3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	35.4
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	33.3
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	33.3
Peri-natal Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	49.2

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION FROM :

Heart and Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	4.65
Cancer	...	...	...	...	2.02
Vascular lesions of the Nervous System	...	...	...	...	1.08
Respiratory Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis of Respiratory System)	...	...	...	...	1.24
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	0.15

VITAL STATISTICS

Population

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population at mid-1963 was 6,450 as compared with 6,400 at mid-1962. The natural increase of the population last year, i.e., excess of births over deaths, was 47.

Comparability Factors

Area comparability factors in respect of Births and Deaths have been supplied by the Registrar-General and for your district are 1.08 and 0.99 respectively. These are the factors by which the crude birth and death rates are multiplied so as to make the rates comparable with the adjusted rates for other areas and with rates for the country as a whole.

The close approximation of both factors to unity indicates that your population nearly approaches by age and sex distribution the standard population of the country.

Births

The number of live births registered in the district during the year, after allowing for the inward and outward transfers, was 120, the same as for 1962.

The adjusted birth rate was 20.1 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 18.4 for the previous year and with 18.2 for England and Wales.

Still-Births

After adjustment for transfers, two still-births were registered during the year. The still-birth rate was 16.4 per 1,000 (live and still) births as compared with 8.3 in the previous year and 17.2 for England and Wales.

Deaths

After correction for inward and outward transferable deaths, the net total deaths registered in and assigned to the district was 73 (males 38, females 35), an increase of three as compared with 1962.

The adjusted death rate was 11.2 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 10.6 for the previous year and with 12.2 for England and Wales.

The principal causes of death in order of numerical importance were: Disease of the Heart and Circulatory System, Cancer, Respiratory Diseases and Vascular lesions of the Nervous System.

Infant Mortality

The infant mortality rate was 33.3 per 1,000 live births as compared with 8.3 for the previous year and with 21.1 for England and Wales.

Deaths in Age Groups

					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 1 year ...	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
1— 5 years ...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
5—15 years ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
15—25 years ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
25—35 years ...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
35—45 years ...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
45—55 years ...	...	...	...	...	3	2	5
55—65 years ...	...	...	...	...	8	3	11
65—75 years ...	...	...	...	...	4	6	10
75 years and over	...	...	...	...	18	19	37
ALL CAUSES ...					38	35	73

Causes of Death in 1963

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	—	1	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	—	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	3	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	—	—
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	3	7
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	1	1	2
16. Diabetes	—	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	5	7
18. Coronary disease, angina	11	7	18
19. Hypertension with heart disease .	—	1	1
20. Other heart disease	4	4	8
21. Other circulatory disease	1	2	3
22. Influenza	1	—	1
23. Pneumonia	1	2	3
24. Bronchitis	3	1	4
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa .	—	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	1	—	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	4	5
33. Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—
34. All other accidents	—	—	—
35. Suicide	4	—	4
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
ALL CAUSES ...	38	35	73

Infant Mortality in 1963

Causes of Death	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Congenital Malformations ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	4

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLIES

The Parishes of Aldbury, Tring Rural and Wigginton are supplied by the Bucks Water Board, and the supply has been adequate in quantity and quality throughout the year.

Little Gaddesden, Nettleden with Potten End (including the hamlet of St. Margaret's) and Northchurch are supplied by the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company.

The work of laying a mains supply to the hamlet of Nettleden was commenced by the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company in February, 1963, the supply being provided by an extension of the main at Frithsden and via the Old Roman Road to Nettleden.

A further extension of the Frithsden main to Nos. 1—6 Frithsden Cottages was commenced in April.

There was no evidence of plumbo-solvency in the main supplies and no action was found necessary in respect of contamination. It is understood that the supply of the Bucks Water Board has a fluoride content of below 0.1 parts per million and the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company supply has not more than 0.05 parts per million.

Particulars of the number of dwelling-houses and the number of population supplied from public water mains are shown in the following table:

Parish	Population (approx.)	(a) Supply direct to Houses		(b) Supply by means of Standpipes	
		Houses	Pop'n	Houses	Pop'n
Aldbury	983	286	983	—	—
Little Gaddesden	1,134	339	1,134	—	—
Nettleden (with Potten End)	1,143	356	1,143	—	—
Northchurch	1,095	349	1,095	—	—
Puttenham	125	35	125	—	—
Tring Rural	820	229	789	12	31
Wigginton	1,100	346	1,100	—	—

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

The public swimming bath at Deer Leap, Ringshall, continues to be much used by the public and a number of schools within the District and the surrounding area. The bath is supplied by mains water, which is chlorinated by a Wallace and Tierman break-point chlorinator; continual flow of the filtered water through the bath and aerating cascade is maintained.

Seven double samples were taken during the year and all were found on analysis to be satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SANITATION

Drainage and Sewerage

Aldbury, Northchurch and Wigginton:

Some progress by the Council's Consulting Engineers has been made in the preparation of a joint scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal for the parishes of Aldbury and Wigginton and that part of Northchurch situated North-West of Berkhamsted and including the hamlet of Dudswell. Negotiations for the purchase of land for the construction of a disposal works were not concluded and the possibility of discharging into the Berkhamsted Urban District Council's works is being investigated.

Little Gaddesden:

I have once more to report that no action in respect of the sewerage of Little Gaddesden has been considered, although drainage difficulties at Ringshall and the Council's housing estate at Cromer Close could conceivably culminate in the question of sewerage of the whole village being seriously reviewed.

Nettleden with Potten End:

The contract for the sewerage of Potten End was completed during the later part of the year and can be regarded as an important step forward in the Council's policy of sewerage as far as economically possible the more densely populated parts of the district.

At the end of the year under review 210 properties had been connected to the Potten End sewers which discharge into the disposal works of the Berkhamsted Urban District Council.

Tring Rural:

In my last report I referred to the report of the Council's Consulting Engineers and the Council's negotiations to convey the sewage to the Tring Urban District Council's disposal works. Detailed surveys of the villages of Long Marston, Puttenham and Wilstone have been carried out and the drawings are in course of preparation.

Cesspool Emptying

The Council continues to operate three cesspool emptying machines and to discharge the cesspool contents into the Berkhamsted Urban District Council's sewage disposal works. It was anticipated that following the completion of the sewerage scheme at Potten End the cesspool emptying service would be considerably eased. Although this has to some extent proved to be so, the demand for the service does not allow of the operation of one less of the three vehicles.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The Council continue to collect household refuse once fortnightly throughout the district. In spite of frequent requests, mainly from Little Gaddesden and Potten End, for a weekly collection the Council have so far continued the fortnightly collection since it is considered that more frequent service would prove unduly costly to the majority of the inhabitants.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the

Factories Act, 1937

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors):

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	8	4	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	3	2	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	11	6	—	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found Nil

3. OUTWORKERS :

Making wearing apparel	1
Making boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	2

SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Visits and Inspections

GENERAL :

Houses—Public Health Acts	206
Housing Acts	92
Overcrowding	6
Infectious diseases	—
Complaints investigated	139
Drainage inspection and tests	242
Tents, vans and sheds	38
Factories, workshops and workplaces	4
Work in progress	1,016
Cesspools	72
Licensed premises	10
Rivers and streams	12

FOOD PREMISES :

Bakehouses	3
Food stores	19

Notices Served and Complied with

				Outstanding 31.12.62	Served 1963	Completed 1963	Outstanding 31.12.63
Formal	...	...	...	2	4	3	3
Informal	...	...	...	5	21	19	7
				—	—	—	—
				7	25	22	10
				—	—	—	—

Nuisances and Defects Remedied

Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Drainage and cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	71
Cesspools emptied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,644
Water closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10

HOUSING

During the year four one-bedroom flats and two three-bedroom houses at Wilstone were completed, and negotiations for the purchase of housing land at Little Gaddesden and Potten End continued.

Private houses were completed in the following Parishes:

<i>Parish</i>					<i>Number of Houses</i>
Aldbury	...	...	...	...	2
Little Gaddesden	...	...	...	...	4
Nettleden with Potten End	...	...	...	...	13
Northchurch	...	...	...	...	1
Tring Rural	...	...	...	...	1
Wigginton	...	...	...	...	3

Under the provisions of the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, Improvement Grants were approved as follows:

Discretionary Grants—15 affecting 15 dwellings.

Standard Grants—21 affecting 24 dwellings.

The total amount of grants was £6,146.

Closing orders in respect of three houses were served. One house was reconditioned and the order rescinded.

During the year the following houses were:—

(a) Commenced only:

	Local Authority		Private Enterprise
	Number	Type	
Permanent Brick	12	2-bedroom houses (8) 3-bedroom houses (2) 2-bedroom bungalows (2)	20

(b) Completed:

	Local Authority		Private Enterprise
	Number	Type	
Permanent Brick	6	3-bedroom houses (2) 1-bedroom flats (4)	24

The position in regard to HOUSING SCHEMES at 31.12.63 was as follows:—

(a) Particulars of Schemes (or Contracts) completed since 1.1.45 up to 31.12.63:

Site	Number of Houses	Type
Wigginton:		
Wick Road	16	2 and 3-bedroom
Fieldway	8	3-bedroom
Chesham Road	6	2 and 3-bedroom
Highfield Road	14	2 and 3-bedroom
Commonfield	8	1-bedroom bungalows
Aldbury:		
Malting Lane	4	2 and 3-bedroom
Stoneycroft	12	3-bedroom
Berryfield	8	3-bedroom
Wilstone:		
New Road	4	3-bedroom
Main Street	2	3-bedroom bungalows
Orchard Place	6	3-bedroom houses and 1-bedroom flats
Little Gaddesden:		
Cromer Close	28	3-bedroom
Long Marston:		
Tring Road	8	3-bedroom
Bromley	24	3 and 4-bedroom houses; 1 and 2-bedroom bungalows
Northchurch:		
Dudswell	2	3-bedroom
Potten End:		
Vicarage Road	10	3-bedroom
Hedgeside	28	2 and 3-bedroom houses and 2-bedroom bungalows
Briar Close	6	1-bedroom bungalows

(b) **Particulars of Schemes (or Contracts) commenced, but not completed at 31.12.63:**

Site	No. of Houses	Type	No. Commenced	No. Completed
Aldbury	8	3-bedroom houses	8	—
Long Marston: Bromley Estate ...	4	2-bedroom houses (2) 2-bedroom bungalows (2)	4	—

(c) **Particulars of Schemes (or Contracts) projected, i.e., Schemes about which arrangements are in hand, but where a start had not been made at 31.12.63:**

Site	Proposed number of Houses	Type
Potten End	18	3-bedroom houses (10) and 1-bedroom flats (8)
Wilstone	40	3-bedroom houses (32) and 1-bedroom flats (8)

Number of applications for Council houses at end of 1963 ... 195

Caravans

The multiple licensed caravan sites in the Rural District are as follows:—

Northchurch (The Limit)	...	...	50 caravans
Wigginton (Happy Days)	...	...	30 caravans
Wigginton (Elroban)	...	...	4 caravans

The owner of the Northchurch site is carrying out extensive works to comply with the standard site conditions and at the end of the year the works were nearing completion.

At the Happy Days, Wigginton, site the number of vans has been increased from 24 to 30 and much correspondence is taking place in pursuance of the site owner's contention that the whole of the woodland owned by him, some ten acres, comprises the site for which planning consent has been issued, the obvious intention being to increase considerably the number of caravans.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Meat and Food Inspection

There are no slaughterhouses in operation in the Rural District.

Food Premises

Nineteen inspections of food premises were made and only one condemnation of unsound food was found necessary. No action in respect of unsatisfactory premises or lack of cleanliness under the Food and Drugs or Hygiene Regulations was necessary.

The number of food premises is 22.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Table showing cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Whooping Cough	1	Nil	Nil
Measles	135	Nil	Nil
Paratyphoid Fever.....	1	1	Nil
Erysipelas	1	Nil	Nil

Analysis of Notified Cases under Age Groups

Age Groups	Whooping Cough	Measles	Paratyphoid Fever	Erysipelas
Under 1 year	—	2	—	—
1— 2 years	—	10	—	—
2— 3 „	—	13	—	—
3— 4 „	—	12	—	—
4— 5 „	—	13	—	—
5—10 „	1	69	1	—
10—15 „	—	9	—	—
15—20 „	—	6	—	—
20—35 „	—	—	—	1
35—45 „	—	1	—	—
45—65 „	—	—	—	—
65 years and upwards ...	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—
Total Cases Notified	1	135	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS

The following Tables give details of the number of cases on the Notification Register, together with particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from Tuberculosis during the year:—

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Number of cases on the Register at 1st January, 1963	19	22	1	3
Number of cases notified for the first time during the year	—	—	—	—
Number of cases added to the Register other than by notification (i.e. transfers in, etc.)	2	1	—	—
Number of cases removed from the Register during the year:	2	5	—	1
Number of cases remaining on the Register at the end of the year	19	18	1	2

Age (years)		New Cases				Deaths			
		Pulmonary		Non - Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0— 1	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
35—45	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—

URBAN DISTRICT OF TRING



Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health

1963

URBAN DISTRICT OF TRING

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

1. General Statistics

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,407 acres
Registrar-General's estimate of population mid-1963	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,110
Number of inhabited houses according to Valuation List at 31st December, 1963	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,254
Rateable Value at 31st December, 1963	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£254,384
Sum represented by a penny rate, 1963/64	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,022

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics

LIVE BIRTHS:

						<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	81	66	147
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
Total						84	67	151

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population: 21.1

Adjusted Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population: 21.7

STILL BIRTHS:

						<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	—	1	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total						—	1	1

Still-birth Rate per 1,000 of total (live and still) births: 6.6

DEATHS:

Males 39, Females 40	...	...	...	...	...	...	79
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.1
Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.4
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

NUMBER OF DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE:

						<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total						1	—	—

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE:

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	6.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	6.8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	0.0
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	0.0
Peri-natal Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	6.6

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION FROM:

Heart and Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	3.52
Vascular lesions of the Nervous System	...	...	...	...	2.25
Cancer	...	...	...	...	1.55
Respiratory Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis of Respiratory System)	...	...	...	...	1.83
Infective and Parasitic diseases (excluding Tuberculosis but including Syphilis and other V.D.)	...	...	...	...	0.14

VITAL STATISTICS

Population

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population at mid-1963 was 7,110 as compared with 6,740 at mid-1962. The natural increase of the population last year, i.e., the excess of births over deaths, was 72.

Comparability Factors

Area comparability factors for Births and Deaths as supplied by the Registrar-General were 1.02 and 1.03 respectively. The crude birth and death rates are multiplied by these factors to obtain adjusted rates which are strictly comparable with similar adjusted rates in other districts and with the rates for the country as a whole. The need for such adjustment is occasioned by the differences in the constitution of area populations as regards the proportions of their sex and age group components. Compared with the previous year the comparability factor for both births and deaths is slightly higher.

Births

After adjustment for inward and outward transferable births a net total of 151 live births was registered in the district during the year, an increase of seven as compared with 1962.

The adjusted birth rate was 21.7 per 1,000 of the estimated population as compared with 20.5 for the previous year and with 18.2 for England and Wales.

Still-Births

After adjustment for transfers, one still-birth was registered during the year. The still-birth rate was 6.6 per 1,000 (live and still) births, as compared with 6.9 in the previous year and with 17.2 for England and Wales.

Deaths

After correction for inward and outward transferable deaths, the net total deaths registered in and assigned to the district was 79, an increase of six on the total for the year 1962.

The adjusted death rate was 11.4 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 10.4 for the previous year and with 12.2 for England and Wales.

The principal causes of death in order of numerical importance were: Diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System, Vascular lesions of the Nervous System, Respiratory Diseases and Cancer.

Infant Mortality

The infant mortality rate was 6.6 per 1,000 live births as compared with 20.8 for the previous year and with 21.1 for England and Wales.

Deaths in Age Groups

					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 1 year ...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
1— 5 years ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5—15 years ...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
15—25 years ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
25—35 years ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
35—45 years ...	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
45—55 years ...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
55—65 years ...	...	...	...	...	7	6	13
65—75 years ...	...	...	...	...	8	6	14
75 years and over	...	...	...	...	16	26	42
ALL CAUSES ...					39	40	79

Causes of Death in 1963

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	1	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	—	1	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	1	5
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	1	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	—	3	3
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	9	16
18. Coronary disease, angina	10	5	15
19. Hypertension with heart disease	—	2	2
20. Other heart disease	2	2	4
21. Other circulatory disease	—	4	4
22. Influenza	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	4	1	5
24. Bronchitis	5	2	7
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	—	1	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	1	—	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	3	6
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	—	1
34. All other accidents	—	—	—
35. Suicide	1	1	2
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
ALL CAUSES ...	39	40	79

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

Water for the whole of the Urban District is supplied by the Bucks Water Board and it has been satisfactory in quality and quantity. The water for this area is derived from wells and boreholes sunk into the chalk at New Ground, Dancers End and Hawridge.

Twenty-six bacteriological examinations were made of the raw water and 26 examinations of treated water into supply at each of the above stations. All results have been satisfactory both chemically and bacteriologically. The water is not plumbo-solvent.

Water softening was discontinued during the year despite the efforts of the Council in trying to persuade the Board to reconsider this action. A number of complaints regarding hardness followed the cessation of softening. There were also a few complaints of chlorine taste at this time and measures are being taken to overcome the problem.

The following table sets out particulars of the number of dwelling-houses and the population supplied from public water mains:—

Population (estimated)	(a) Supply direct to houses		(b) Supply by means of Standpipes	
	Houses	Population	Houses	Population
7,180	2,335	7,180	—	—

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

There are no swimming baths within the Urban District. The nearest public swimming baths are at Ringshall, Berkhamsted and Aylesbury.

DRAINAGE AND SANITATION

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

During the year good progress was made with the reconstruction of the sewage disposal works and the new plant was expected to be in operation in February, 1964. The foul and surface water sewers have been further extended during the year. Of particular interest is the surface water drainage works carried out at Cow Lane where considerable flooding has occurred in the past.

The arrangements made with a neighbouring Authority for the emptying of cesspools and septic tanks are still operating satisfactorily. The cost of the service is recovered from the owners of the properties.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The weekly collection of refuse has, with a few exceptions, been maintained throughout the year but the continued new development has placed such demands on the service that any interruption, such as Bank Holidays, has an effect on the timing of collections over the following two weeks. Attempts to minimise this effect have resulted in increased overtime working before and after Bank Holidays, particularly on Saturday afternoons.

The continued increase in population has had a material effect on the Refuse Tip, the tipping life of which is not expected to last beyond December, 1964. The problem of finding alternative disposal facilities is now becoming increasingly urgent, but despite much discussion and many meetings no satisfactory solution has yet been found.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the
Factories Act, 1937

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors):

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	11	9	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	31	29	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' premises)	2	2	—	—
TOTAL	44	40	—	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found Nil

3. OUTWORKERS:

Making wearing apparel	11
Total	11

SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

Visits and Inspections

GENERAL :

Houses—Public Health Acts	29
Housing Acts	54
Improvement Grants	42
Problem families and old people	5
Rivers and Streams	11
Drainage and Cesspools	23
Refuse and Sewage Disposal	12
Moveable Dwellings	7
Factories and workplaces	45
Building Sites	7
Public Halls	9
Interviews	147
Pests Act—Rats and Mice	18
Flies and Insects	8
Dirty and verminous premises	2
Petroleum Acts	28

FOOD PREMISES :

Butchers and Slaughterhouses	27
Bakehouses	5
Licensed Premises	3
Restaurants and kitchens	4
Public Market and Foodstalls	17
Dairies	3
Other Food Premises	8

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses in the Urban District.

HOUSING

Progress was made with detailed surveys of slum properties and action taken under the Housing Act has resulted in 38 houses being closed or undertakings given.

Work has gone ahead, though with some delays due to shortage of labour, on the Council's "Eight Acres" Housing Estate and the above-mentioned houses are steadily being vacated. However, as most of the property is of a terraced type, Demolition Orders has not yet been implemented.

Most of the land zoned for residential development on the Approved Town Map has now been absorbed. Provision has been made in the Review Town Map, which was submitted to the Minister at the end of the year, for substantial new residential areas. Representations were made to the County Planning Authority to earmark some of these areas for Council Housing Development, but there has been a reluctance by that Authority to do so. The Council must continue, however, to press for reservation of suitable land if the building of Council houses is not to be severely curtailed.

During the year the following number of houses were:—

(a) Commenced only:

	Local Authority		Private Enterprise
	Number	Type	
Permanent Brick	38	3-bedroom, parlour (30) 2-bedroom flats (4) 1-bedroom flats (4)	85

(b) Completed:

	Local Authority		Private Enterprise
	Number	Type	
Permanent Brick	29	3 & 4-bedroom, parlour (21) 1 & 2-bedroom, non-parlour (8)	102

The position in regard to HOUSING SCHEMES at 31.12.63 was as follows:—

(a) **Particulars of Schemes completed since 1.1.45 to 31.12.63:—**

Site	Number of Houses	Type
Woodland Close	46	Brick, 3-bedroom, parlour
Gammel	24	Brick, 3-bedroom, parlour
Dundale Road	10	Brick, 3-bedroom, parlour
Meadow Close	6	Brick, 3-bedroom, parlour
Goldfield	40	Brick, 3-bedroom, parlour and non-parlour
Goldfield Estate	17	Brick, 3-bedroom, parlour and non-parlour; 1 and 2-bedroom bungalows
New Road	12	Brick, 3-bedroom, non-parlour
Eight Acres	29	Brick, 3 and 4-bedroom, parlour; 1 and 2-bedroom, non-parlour

(b) **Particulars of Schemes commenced but not completed at 31.12.63:—**

Site	Number of Houses	Type	Number Commenced	Number Completed
Eight Acres	72	3 and 4-bedroom, parlour; 1 and 2-bedroom, non-parlour	38	Nil

Number of applicants for Council houses at end of 1963 ... 120

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The inspection of food and food premises was again somewhat limited (with the exception of meat and slaughterhouses), since the urgent nature of the slum clearance programme took precedence. Concerted action with regard to the food premises will be taken at the earliest possible opportunity.

1. **Number of food premises in the area:—**

Fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Butcher shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Grocers and mixed trade including sugar confectionery	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Bakers and confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

2. **Number of food premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drug Act:—**

Ice-cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	13
Preserved food premises	...	...	...	...	...	9

3. Number of inspections of registered food premises 23

A grocer's shop was extensively altered and modernised and now complies satisfactorily with the requirements of the Food and Hygiene Regulations 1955-56. Further improvements were effected at both slaughterhouses in the District.

4. Meat and offal condemned at the two slaughterhouses is disposed of at a dog food factory situated in a neighbouring district, where it is sterilized and processed. Unfit food surrendered at other food premises is disposed of by burial at the refuse tip and comprised of the following:

Tinned meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	38½ lbs.
Raw meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	80¾ lbs.

5. No ice-cream is manufactured in the Urban District.

Meat Inspection

There are two slaughterhouses in the district. Meat at one was inspected by the Public Health Inspector and at the other by Veterinary Surgeons in private practice. Most of the meat is consumed outside the district.

The following table shows the extent of tuberculosis and other disease found on post-mortem examination of animals slaughtered in the district during 1963:—

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part:

	Cattle excl- uding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Hor- ses
Number killed	3,849	283	2,202	6,874	2,753	—
Number inspected	3,693	274	2,043	6,251	2,537	—
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI:						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	2	3	11	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	882	21	8	378	267	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerici	23.9	8	0.5	6.1	10.9	—
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	31	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	1.2	—
CYSTICERCOSIS:						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	7	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ...	6	—	—	—	—	—

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Table showing Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Whooping Cough	1	Nil	Nil
Measles	265	Nil	Nil

Analysis of Notified Cases under Age Groups

Age Groups	Whooping Cough	Measles
Under 1 year	—	9
1— 2 years	—	21
2— 3 „	—	29
3— 4 „	—	36
4— 5 „	—	37
5—10 „	—	116
10—15 „	—	10
15—20 „	—	4
20—35 „	—	1
35—45 „	—	—
45—65 „	1	—
65 years and upwards	—	—
Age unknown	—	2
Total Cases Notified .	1	265

TUBERCULOSIS

The following tables give details of the number of cases on the Notification Register, together with particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from Tuberculosis during the year:—

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Number of cases on Register at 1st January, 1963	14	9	1	1
Number of cases notified for the first time during the year	—	—	—	—
Number of cases added to the Register other than by notification (i.e. transfers in, etc.)	1	1	—	1
Number of cases removed from the Register	1	1	1	—
Total number of cases remaining on the Register at the end of the year	14	9	—	2

Age (years)	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0— 1 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5 „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10 „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15 „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20 „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25 „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Dacorum Division

comprised of

The Borough of Hemel Hempstead

The Urban Districts of Berkhamsted and Tring

The Rural Districts of Hemel Hempstead and Berkhamsted



ANNUAL REPORT of the **DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER**

1 9 6 3

by

R. S. HYND, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

DIVISIONAL STAFF

Divisional Medical Officer :

R. S. HYND, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Assistant County Medical Officers :

K. W. M. HARBORD, B.A., M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., D.P.H. (to 3.6.63)

A. WILKES, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

E. E. HENDERSON, M.B., B.S., D.P.H. (to 10.7.63)

B. A. RICHARDS, M.B., B.S., D.R.C.O.G. (Part-time to 30.6.63)

E. S. M. BARNES, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.R.C.O.G. (Part-time to 30.11.63)

B. E. S. COLMAN, B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Part-time June-Sept., 1963)

A. T. RODEN, M.B., B.S. (As from 22.7.63)

J. POOLE, M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.C.H. (As from 30.9.63)

B. S. M. MARSHALL, M.B., CH.B. (As from 1.10.63)

Clinic Medical Officers (Part-time) :

D. D. BROWN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

H. W. JOHN, L.M.S.S.A.

F. C. J. FAWCETT, M.B., CH.B.

B. E. S. COLMAN, B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Divisional Nursing Officer :

MRS. D. CARTER, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V., Queen's Nurse

Health Visitors :

MRS. D. ARNOTT

MISS G. AUSTIN

MISS C. J. BADCOCK

MISS M. L. BAKER

MISS L. BRACKLEY

MISS M. A. CLEGG

MRS. S. COLBOURNE

MISS S. J. EVANS

MRS. M. HOOK

MISS O. B. IVES

MISS R. M. S. JOHNSON

MRS. M. KENNEDY

MISS C. N. McCONACHIE

MISS M. PRITCHARD

MISS I. WHITMAN

**MRS. K. CLIFT
(Part-time)**

**MRS. M. McMAHON
(Part-time)**

Health Visitor/District Nurse/Midwives :

MRS. O. CAMPANA

MISS I. A. R. CARTER

MISS R. CORDNER

MISS K. A. HOPKINS

MISS M. E. O'DWYER

MISS M. R. PLUMB

MISS J. L. POWELL

District Nurse/Midwives :

MISS M. CHALKER

MISS A. K. DAVIES

MISS M. DRING

MISS A. B. HICKIE

MISS S. M. JOHN

MRS. M. McCONNELL

MISS I. MURRELL

MISS F. R. PHILLIPS

MISS J. SAGE

MISS J. S. SLATER

MISS K. YEARSDEN

**MRS. A. HARWOOD
(Part-time)**

Midwives :

MISS L. ABRAHAM

MISS I. SAXBY

MISS I. M. BELLE

District Nurses :

MRS. E. M. HAMLYN

MRS. D. KNIGHT

MRS. J. E. WATTS

MRS. E. G. COX (Part-time)

MRS. O. MORGAN (Part-time)

MRS. H. A. HANDLEY, (Part-time)

MRS. G. NASSE (Part-time)

Clinic Nurses :

MRS. P. BATHE

MRS. E. GRIFFIN

MRS. N. HALTON

MRS. N. KERRY

Night Nurse:

MRS. P. J. PECK

Chief Clerk :

MR. D. HARLING

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL—SERVICES

Introduction

In this section of the report an account is given of the services provided in the Division by the County Council. The account, purposely brief, reviews the health services from the local angle and gives emphasis to the local facts and figures. For information on policy and development of the health services, reference should be made to the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer.

The Division, which comprises the Borough of Hemel Hempstead, the Urban Districts of Berkhamsted and Tring and the Rural Districts of Hemel Hempstead and Berkhamsted, covers an area of 51,355 acres with an estimated population of 101,820. The increase of population in the year was 2,780.

Staff

The Medical Staff consists of a Divisional Medical Officer, who is also the Medical Officer of Health for the five constituent local authorities in the Division, four full-time Assistant County Medical Officers and four part-time Medical Officers for duties in the Maternity and Child Welfare clinics on a sessional basis.

The Nursing Staff, who are under the general direction of the Divisional Nursing Officer, comprises 17 Health Visitor/School Nurses, two of whom are part-time, 19 District Nurse/Midwives, seven of whom are qualified Health Visitors and perform as part of their work health visiting duties, eight District Nurses, four of whom are part-time, three Midwives, one Night Nurse and four part-time Clinic Nurses. The nursing establishment was increased last year by the equivalent of two whole-time nurses.

Medical auxiliaries on the central staff of the County Medical Officer give both whole and part-time service within the Division and include a Psychotherapist, Psychiatric Social Worker, Mental Welfare Officer, Speech Therapist, Orthoptist, Teacher of Deaf Children, Home Help Organiser and an Instructor in Physical Education. The work among deaf children was greatly strengthened with the appointment to the central staff of a Consultant Audiologist and an Audiometrician. The Divisional Dental Service was further expanded particularly at the Churchill Clinic where evening sessions on three evenings each week were begun to obviate loss of school time among secondary school and particularly grammar school children. It would appear by the number of attendances the evening sessions are as popular with the scholars as they are with the school staff.

The resignation of three of the five A.C.M.O.'s attached to the Division, all within the space of three months, cast a temporary shadow over the personal health services. The annual review of the visual acuity of secondary school children, one of two research projects begun in the previous year, had to be abandoned and there was inevitably a break in continuity in the infant welfare and school health programmes. While we shall miss Drs. Richards, Harbord and Henderson, each who had given for four or five years most valuable and valued service, we equally must welcome their successors and wish them success in their work.

Nursing staff changes during the year were fortunately very small but one departure deserves special comment. In September Mrs. Mayo retired after 22 years service in the Borough as a District Nurse. She left behind her a record of service of which she could justly be proud and a nursing reputation which her younger colleagues will wish to emulate. Mrs. Mayo will be remembered not only for her skill and kindness as a District Nurse but also for her voluntary work in the community, to which she devoted much of her spare time. For many years she was associated with the Family Planning Clinic and also served for some years on the Housing Committee of the Borough Council as a co-opted member. For one year she occupied with distinction the high office of Mayoress of the Borough. We gratefully acknowledge her service to District Nursing and to the community and we wish her a long and happy retirement.

In previous years it has been the practice at this stage of the report to comment upon the effects of the links forged between the members of the Divisional Medical and Nursing staffs and their colleagues in hospital and general practice. Last year special reference was made to an experiment started in one practice in the Borough where, to encourage the fullest co-operation between doctor and nurse and to co-ordinate their work in the fields of prevention, a health Visitor was attached to the practice for work solely among the patients of the practice and under the general direction of the doctor. The experiment proved most successful; it gave the doctors a social worker to whom they could refer their social problems for investigation and report and it gave the health visitor the assurance of readily available medical advice and an added confidence in her work.

Encouraged by the success in the one practice of this new venture in co-operation, it was decided to offer similar facilities to the other practices in the Borough and, after full discussion, the family doctors all agreed to accept the offer. The offer was to be entirely without strings, the health visitors to perform their normal duties among the patients of the practice with the doctors making whatever use of the health visitors' services they thought best suited the particular requirements of their practice. Sufficient health visitors would be attached to each practice to cover the full range of health visiting but school health work would remain outside the scope of the scheme and infant welfare centres would continue as before. In the practices where "well baby" clinics were already established, it was agreed the health visitors would attend. In one practice, with limited surgery accommodation it was agreed to allow the doctors the use of the Infant Welfare premises for one afternoon each week for their baby clinic.

Much has been written in recent years on the vital need for full co-operation between the three arms of the National Health Service, and particular stress has been laid upon co-operation between the family doctor and the health visitor in the field of preventive medicine. Words have now been translated into deeds in the Borough, the whole town has been included in this new form of partnership and, no doubt, in due course the whole community will derive benefit from it.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR 1963

	Hemel Hempstead Borough	Hemel Hempstead Rural District	Berkhamsted Urban District	Berkhamsted Rural District	Tring Urban District	Dacorum Division	Hertfordshire County Council	England and Wales (provisional figures)
Area (acres)	7,193	20,231	1,952	17,572	4,407	51,355	404,524	*
Population	60,460	13,810	13,990	6,450	7,110	101,820	873,870	47,022,700
Live Births	1,215	244	249	120	151	1,979	16,011	*
Still-births	20	3	1	2	1	27	254	*
Deaths	428	129	137	73	79	846	8,453	*
Deaths under 1 year of age ...	13	5	5	4	1	28	241	*
BIRTH RATE Per 1,000 estimated population:								
Crude	20.1	17.7	17.8	18.6	21.2	19.4	18.3	18.2
Adjusted	17.1	18.4	18.3	20.1	21.7	*	17.4	—
DEATH RATES								
All per 1,000 estimated population:								
Crude	7.1	9.3	9.8	11.3	11.1	8.3	9.7	12.2
Adjusted	10.6	9.9	10.7	11.2	11.4	*	10.9	—
Infective and Parasitic diseases ex- cluding T.B. but including Syphilis and other V.D. ...	0.03	*	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.03	0.02	*
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	0.03	*	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.03	0.04	*
Other forms of Tuberculosis .	0.02	*	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	*	*
Respiratory Diseases (ex- cluding tuber- culosis of res- piratory sys- tem)	0.88	1.09	1.57	1.24	1.83	1.09	*	*
Cancer	1.52	1.23	1.36	2.02	1.55	1.49	1.78	*
Heart and Circu- latory Diseases	2.38	3.26	3.93	4.65	3.52	2.94	2.99	*
Vascular lesions of the Nervous System	1.06	1.95	1.36	1.08	2.25	1.31	*	*

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR 1963

(continued)

	Hemel Hempstead Borough	Hemel Hempstead Rural District	Berkhamsted Urban District	Berkhamsted Rural District	Tring Urban District	Dacorum Division	Hertfordshire County Council	England and Wales (provisional figures)
INFANT MORTALITY	10.7	20.5	20.1	33.3	6.6	14.1	15.1	21.1
NEO-NATAL MORTALITY	6.6	20.5	16.1	33.3	0.0	11.1	10.1	14.2
EARLY NEO- NATAL MORTALITY	5.8	20.5	12.0	33.3	0.0	9.6	8.9	*
PERI-NATAL MORTALITY	21.9	32.4	16.0	49.2	6.6	22.9	24.4	29.3
STILL-BIRTH RATE	16.2	12.1	4.0	16.4	6.6	13.5	15.6	17.2
MATERNAL MORTALITY	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.37	0.28

* Figures not available.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

The number of live births registered in the Divisional Area during 1963 was 1,979 (1,032 males, 947 females), an increase of 16 compared with the previous year.

The CRUDE BIRTH RATE was 19.4 per 1,000 estimated population as compared with 19.8 for 1962.

The illegitimate live births numbered 89 or 4.5 per cent. of the total live births compared with 83 and 4.2 per cent. respectively for the previous year.

Deaths

The deaths assigned to the Divisional Area after correction for transfers were 846 (447 males, 399 females), an increase of nine on the total for 1962.

The CRUDE DEATH RATE from all causes was 8.3 per 1,000 estimated population as compared with 8.5 for the previous year.

The principal causes of death in order of numerical importance were:

- 1. Diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System.
- 2. Cancer.
- 3. Vascular lesions of the Nervous System.
- 4. Respiratory Diseases (excluding Pulmonary Tuberculosis).

These four causes accounted for 82 per cent. of the total deaths.

Infant Mortality

In 1963 the deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 28, a decrease of three from the previous year. Twenty-one infants were under four weeks of age at time of death.

The INFANT MORTALITY RATE was 14.1 per 1,000 live births as compared with 15.8 for 1962.

The death rate among legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births was 13.8 as compared with 16.5 for 1962.

The death rate among illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births was 22.5 as compared with 0.0 for 1962.

The following table gives the causes of deaths of all infants under one year of age:—

Causes of Death	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total under 1 year of age
Congenital mal-formations ...	7	1	—	1	9	2	—	—	—	11
Prematurity ...	8	—	—	—	8	1	—	—	—	9
Pneumonitis ...	2	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	1	5
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Cerebral Abscess	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Haemolytic Disease of the New-born ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
TOTAL ...	19	1	—	1	21	4	1	1	1	28

EPIDEMIOLOGY

Smallpox

The calm of a year free from the threat of Smallpox was in startling contrast to the excitement and anxiety of the previous year, a contrast which was fully reflected in the vaccination returns. From over eight thousand vaccination and re-vaccinations recorded in 1962 the number fell to below one thousand.

The figures for 1962 and 1963 are not strictly comparable but it is worth noting that the low figure of last year was well below the average figure for the preceding five years.

An explanation for the decline in the number of vaccination rests almost entirely upon the change in the timing of infant vaccination recommended by the Ministry of Health and brought into effect last year. Hitherto, primary vaccination had been recommended at about four to five months of age because it was generally considered that at this age there was likely to be the lowest risk of serious reaction. Recent figures suggest, however, that the risk may be lowest at the age of one or two years. The Ministry therefore advised that vaccination should be done at some convenient time during the first two years, but preferably during the second year. The recommended change in the timing of vaccination was put into effect at the Welfare Clinics and vaccination, instead of being the first immunisation procedure became, in fact, the last. Infants therefore who, under the old scheme, would have been vaccinated last year still await vaccination and the delay is reflected in the vaccination returns.

Future annual returns will not, of course, show the effect of this change and the annual statistics will once again be comparable.

Details of the various age groups vaccination and re-vaccination are shown below:—

	Under 1 year	1—2 years	2—5 years	5—15 years	15 + years	Totals
VACCINATIONS						
(a) By Clinic Medical Officers ...	30	190	30	10	—	260
(b) By Private Doctors	208	52	18	52	69	399
RE-VACCINATIONS						
(a) By Clinic Medical Officers ...	—	1	2	6	—	9
(b) By Private Doctors	—	2	6	47	139	194
Total vaccinated and re-vaccinated ...	238	245	56	115	208	862

In general, vaccinations were unaccompanied by anything other than a mild local reaction.

Diphtheria

There was a welcome all-round increase last year in the number of both primary and secondary immunisations. The disease may have gone but fortunately it has not been forgotten, and the community is still prepared to take the necessary precautions.

The increase in the number of primary immunisations was real in that it represented an increase in the number of parents accepting immunisation for their children but the increase in the number of secondary immunisations was very largely a matter of recording. For some years booster doses have been given to children at the age of 15 to 18 months and again at school entry but it was only last year that the earlier booster dose was separately recorded.

Details of the various age groups immunised are shown below:—

	Year of birth					Totals
	1963	1962	1961-59	1958-49	1948 upwards	
PRIMARY IMMUNISATION						
(a) By Clinic or School Medical Officers	711	654	106	22	—	1,493
(b) By Private Doctors	195	255	12	9	—	471
SECONDARY OR RE-INFORCING INJECTIONS						
(a) By Clinic or School Medical Officers	—	342	113	512	—	967
(b) By Private Doctors	—	33	48	196	—	277
Total of primary and secondary immunisations	906	1,284	279	739	—	3,208

Whooping Cough

The number of notifications of Whooping Cough jumped to 67, a considerable increase over the previous year but, nevertheless, still not one which need be regarded with anxiety. Of the 67 cases the immunisation state of eight was not recorded. Of the remaining 59 cases, 42 occurred in immunised children with 34 instances where the illness was mild and nine where the symptoms were moderate to severe. The non-immunised children showed a much higher percentage of severe constitutional disturbances with nine of the 17 children in the moderate to severe category.

Triple antigen, including the antigens of Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus, was used throughout the year for primary immunisations but the Whooping Cough fraction was omitted for the booster doses given at school entry age. The effect of the change in the recording of the 15 to 18 months booster dose has previously been commented upon when discussing diphtheria immunisation.

Details of the various age groups immunised are shown below:—

	Year of birth				Totals
	1963	1962	1961-59	1958-49	
PRIMARY IMMUNISATION					
(a) By Clinic Medical Officers	711	654	106	12	1,483
(b) By Private Doctors ...	192	251	12	8	463
SECONDARY OR RE-INFORCING INJECTIONS					
(a) By Clinic Medical Officers	—	342	89	21	452
(b) By Private Doctors ...	—	32	40	141	213
Total of primary and secondary immunisations	903	1,279	247	182	2,611

Poliomyelitis

For the fifth successive year the area was free from Polio while the national incidence of the disease was again reduced. Even the official literature on the subject was scanty and the only ministerial pronouncement concerned a very minor change in the vaccination procedure.

The community, however, still remembers the physical havoc the disease can cause and there is no difficulty in persuading mothers to have their babies vaccinated especially now the Sabin oral vaccine is used in place of the Salk vaccine which had to be given by injection. Booster doses are given at school entry age and there must now be relatively few children in the division who have not been fully protected.

Details of the vaccination records are shown below:—

Part I—Primary Immunisation:—

Age Group	No. of Persons, who, in 1963, received:		Total Persons who have received Primary Immunisations to 31.12.63
	Salk Vaccine (2 injections)	Oral Vaccine (3 injections)	
(a) Children born in 1963 ...	—	351	} 30,238
(b) Children born in 1962 ...	6	1,218	
(c) Children born in 1961 ...	5	205	
(d) Children and young persons born in years 1943-60 ...	7	250	
(e) Young persons born in years 1933-42	1	82	7,555
(f) Others	6	120	9,577
(g) TOTAL	25	2,226	47,370

Part II—Re-inforcing Doses:—

	Immunised in 1963	Total Immunised to 31.12.63
(a) Number of persons given third injections of Salk vaccine	21	37,474
(b) Number of persons given fourth injections of Salk vaccine	27	8,902
(c) Number of persons given a reinforcing dose of ORAL vaccine after		
(i) 2 Salk doses	303	4,135
(ii) 3 Salk doses, or 3 Oral doses, or 2 Salk plus 2 Oral doses ...	1,897	2,882

Scarlet Fever

There was a small rise in the number of Scarlet Fever notifications from 13 in 1962 to 17 last year. The disease remained mild and free from complications.

Measles

Last year was an epidemic year for Measles with 2,009 cases notified and the illness widespread throughout the Division. Once again, while the initial symptoms were unpleasant, the illness was generally mild in nature and the incidence of complications small.

In the annual report for the year 1961, comment was made on the futility of the compulsory notification of the disease. Nothing of any value in prevention is gained by notification and much time and money is spent unnecessarily on the completion of forms and the recording of figures. It is hoped that by the time the next two-year epidemic cycle is due either a potent and practical vaccine will have been discovered or the compulsory notification of the disease will have ceased.

Notification of Notifiable Infectious Diseases 1963 (corrected)

Disease	District					Totals for Division
	Borough of Hemel Hempstead	Rural District of Hemel Hempstead	Urban District of Berkhamsted	Rural District of Berkhamsted	Urban District of Tring	
Scarlet Fever ...	24	2	1	—	—	27
Whooping Cough ...	13	5	47	1	1	67
Measles	1,278	157	174	135	265	2,009
Dysentery	5	1	5	—	—	11
Meningococcal infection	—	—	1	—	—	1
Acute Pneumonia ...	—	—	4	—	—	4
Paratyphoid Fever ...	—	—	—	1	—	1
Erysipelas ...	1	—	2	1	—	4
Food Poisoning ...	2	—	1	—	—	3
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	—	—	—	—	2
Tuberculosis						
Pulmonary ...	24	1	—	—	—	25
Non-Pulmonary ...	3	1	1	—	—	5

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

Domiciliary Midwifery

There were 904 home confinements and all but four of the patients were attended by County Council Midwives. The number of County Council midwives working within the Division was 22 of whom 19 were employed in the dual capacity of District Nurse/Midwife. Gas and Air analgesia was administered to 715 patients while a further 96 patients received Trichlorethylene analgesia. Pethidine injections were given to 473 patients. The total of domiciliary confinement increased by 16 or 1.8 per cent. last year.

The total number of confinements among residents in the Division was 1,994, an increase of 55 or 2.7 per cent. over the previous year, the percentage of domiciliary confinements decreasing slightly from 46 per cent. to 45 per cent. Of the 1,096 confinements in hospital and nursing homes, 850 were in the St. Paul's Hospital, Hemel Hempstead. The remaining 246 confinements took place in hospitals and nursing homes outside the Divisional area, 81 in hospitals and nursing homes within the County and 164 outside the County area.

Within the boundaries of the Borough, the percentage of domiciliary confinements to total confinements was 46 per cent., whereas for the remaining area of the Division, the percentage was 43 per cent. These percentages compare with the national average of 34 per cent. for 1962.

It is most depressing to have to record that the fourth maternity ward at the St. Paul's Hospital remained closed throughout the year. Indeed, the opening of the ward for patients is still not yet within sight for as one obstacle to its opening is cleared another invariably appears. It was fortunate that 164 mothers found hospital or nursing home accommodation outside the County boundaries for otherwise the situation might well have been critical. None can be satisfied with the existing maternity hospital coverage of the area and none can rest content until substantial improvements have been effected.

Ante-Natal Clinics

The day of the local authority clinic was finally ended in March with the closing of the remaining clinics at Churchill, Hemel Hempstead and Berkhamsted. From that time ante-natal cases became the joint responsibility of the family doctor and midwife working wherever possible from the doctor's surgery. Midwives made regular weekly attendances at eight surgeries and arrangements were in hand for midwives to attend a further three surgeries early in the new year. Relief midwives were always available whenever the regular midwife was absent.

Apart from seeing patients at the doctors' ante-natal clinics, the midwives and their pupils paid 7,622 ante-natal home visits. Seven of the midwives in the Borough were responsible for giving district training and experience to 32 pupil midwives and it was most encouraging to find that many doctors took great interest in this work and gave considerable help.

Ante-natal relaxation clinics continued to be an important part of the midwives' work and the seven weekly sessions, covering all districts in the Division, were everywhere well attended.

Child Welfare Centres

One of the encouraging trends in child welfare work is the increasing interest taken in the work by the family doctor. Many doctors have established their own "well baby" clinics and while there is still a tendency for these clinics to concentrate on specific preventive measures such as immunisations, time is also being spent with the mother in the discussion of her child's emotional needs and physical development. With health visitors now attached to the doctors' practices in the Borough the "well baby" clinics here more closely follow the aims and procedures of the infant welfare centres and, indeed, there is often little to distinguish between the two. In one practice, because of inadequate surgery accommodation, the doctors were allowed the use of the infant welfare centre for their "well baby" clinic and, in fact, took over one of the two weekly welfare sessions at the centre. The result was most

encouraging and the change seems to have been welcomed by all. It may be that further requests for the use of welfare centres for “well baby” clinics will be received and undoubtedly the County Health Committee will give each request sympathetic consideration.

Another encouraging feature last year was the long-awaited opening of the new Health Centre at Berkhamsted, the first Centre in the Division primarily designed for the purpose, and not merely an adjunct of a Community Centre or Nurses Home. The building is on a central site generously surrendered by the District Authority and includes a dental suite, rooms for ophthalmology and speech therapy and office accommodation for health visitors, home help organiser and various peripatetic staff. There is no doubt that the provision of this well-equipped centre has aroused in the town a new interest in the maternity and child welfare services and perhaps made the community a little more aware of the preventive medical services in general.

WELFARE FOODS DISTRIBUTION

One of the duties, not always relished, imposed upon local health authorities is the sale and distribution of the welfare foods. There are 28 centres in the Division from which these foods (National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, Cod Liver Oil and Vitamin tablets) are distributed. Of these distribution centres 18 are situated in Infant Welfare Centres, seven in local shops and three in premises staffed by the W.V.S.

Supplies are ordered through the Divisional Health Office from a main depot at Chesham and deliveries to the centres are either made directly from the main depot or by local transport from a County Council depot at Hemel Hempstead. The following welfare foods were distributed last year:—

National Dried Milk ...	...	...	5,435 tins
Orange Juice ...	...	...	39,282 bottles
Cod Liver Oil ...	...	...	2,021 bottles
Vitamin A and D Tablets ...	...	...	3,797 packets

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

Introduction

The school health service suffered a temporary setback when early in the year three of the five Assistant County Medical Officers attached to the Division resigned, all within the space of three months. Drs. Harbord, Henderson and Richards will certainly be missed for each had given between three and four years service to the Division and had in the period established an excellent rapport with the schools. They showed an immense enthusiasm for their work and had each accomplished much. We wish them well and thank them for their service.

Because of the medical staff changes there was inevitably some dislocation of the medical inspection programmes and the work tended to be more concerned with routine matters with less emphasis on special enquiries and research. Two aspects of the work perhaps require special comment.

B.C.G. Vaccination Surveys—Prevention of Tuberculosis

Annual B.C.G. vaccination surveys among the older school children were begun in 1957 in an attempt to give a measure of protection to those children who possess little or no immunity to tuberculosis as evidenced by a negative reaction to a tuberculin skin test. The children reacting positively to the test are presumed to have acquired some immunity but to preclude the possibility of existing disease chest X-rays are taken as a precautionary measure. As an additional precaution the strongly positive skin reactors are examined by the Chest Physician and remain under his surveillance at least until they leave school. The families of these children are investigated to trace possible sources of infection.

A review of the statistics for the seven year period reveal points of interest and indicate certain trends. The only cases of active disease ever found occurred in the first survey in 1957 when two children were discovered with early pulmonary disease and admitted to a sanatorium for treatment. In each instance the source of infection was found within the family.

In 1957 the acceptance rate for the scheme was 71 per cent., a percentage which has gradually risen until it reached 85 per cent. in 1963. Even this figure is better than it appears for some of the 15 per cent. of non-participants were purposely omitted from the survey because they were under, or had been under, the care of the Chest Physician as contacts while others were excluded because of previous B.C.G. vaccination.

The incidence of tuberculin positive reactors has steadily declined from 14 per cent. of the total children tested in 1959 to 5 per cent. in each of the last two years. Equally the incidence of strongly positive reactors has declined from 30 per cent. of the total positive reactors in 1961, the first year in which the distinction between strong and weak positive reactors was drawn, to 13 per cent. last year. An explanation of the steady decline in positive reactors over the past seven years probably rests on two major factors:—

1. The decreasing incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and in particular the fewer patients within the community with positive sputum.
2. The virtual elimination of tuberculous milk in the area since the introduction of the Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Area) Orders which became operative in parts of the area in January, 1954, and in the remaining parts in March, 1955.

An inevitable consequence of the increasing freedom of children from contact with sources of infection, either human or bovine, is the steady rise in the number of non-immune or susceptible children. The importance of B.C.G. vaccination becomes greater with each succeeding year and our efforts to get all susceptible children protected by vaccination must be intensified.

The source of infection in children is usually these days among the family but it is always as well to search for other possible sources of infection which must, for children, include the school. In the past three years there have been two instances of open pulmonary tuberculosis in teachers in junior schools and the one recorded last year is worthy of comment.

A notification of open Pulmonary Tuberculosis in a junior school teacher was received in April last year with the further intimation that the patient had been admitted for treatment to a sanatorium. The source of infection appeared to be the husband and investigation of the school was, therefore, confined to the investigation of the contacts. The children who had been in contact with the teacher numbered 148, of whom 38 were class contacts. Eight of these children were not included in the subsequent investigation either because they had had B.C.G. vaccination previously or were under the surveillance of the Chest Physician as contacts. Parental consent for the tuberculin skin test was obtained for all the children concerned and all the children were, in fact, tested including four who had been transferred to other schools in the area and one who had moved to a neighbouring county. Of the 140 children examined seven had positive tuberculin skin tests and all were strongly positive reactors. It is interesting that five of the seven children were in the affected teacher's class. All these seven children were examined by the Chest Physician but fortunately none showed evidence of tuberculosis either clinically or radiologically. As a precaution, however, each child was given a course of anti-tuberculosis therapy and kept under further surveillance.

Every member of the teaching staff responded to the offer of a chest X-ray and happily none showed any evidence of disease. It is gladly acknowledged that but for the active co-operation of the school, and particularly the Headmaster, the investigation could not have been so complete.

Health Education

Health education is a subject which is slowly gaining increasing recognition in schools and which is now accepted by some secondary modern schools as an integral part of the curriculum. In five of the

secondary modern schools in the Division instruction in personal hygiene, home nursing, first aid, mothercraft and community health is being given by the school nurse to the older girls. It usually takes the form of a series of lecture/demonstrations for two periods a week over a complete term. The content of the talks is largely based on the ideas of the County Health Education Officer and invariably agreed beforehand with the Head teacher. Indeed, the Head teachers give the school nurse much encouragement and advice on the form and presentation of the talks and on the whole the Health Education courses go down reasonably well with the scholars.

Health Education is probably practised in most schools a good deal more than it is preached. As a set subject it has not much of a vogue and is, in any event, usually limited to those aspects affecting and of interest to the young adolescent girl. Would it be more acceptable to schools if it were better presented? It must be admitted that not all school nurses have the aptitude for teaching. We tend to tackle the difficult subject of Health Education with the hesitant diffidence of the amateur instead of the polished confidence of the professional. To sell an idea to a young adolescent for which he feels neither a particular need nor interest is a job for the professional and one for which, by the very nature of their training, the school doctor or nurse is not usually equipped.

If Health Education, as a set subject, is to gain the prominence in the school curriculum which its importance perhaps warrants then our ideas on the form and method of its presentation will require drastic revision. The teaching of health education should be left to those members of the medical and nursing staff who show an aptitude for teaching and who can be given the necessary training for the job. Indeed, it may be that if practice is to keep pace with the growing recognition of the importance of the subject not only in the schools but in the community at large each health division will eventually need its own Health Education Officer.

Defects found at Periodic Medical Inspections

A statistical analysis of the defects found at medical inspections is given in the following table:—

Defect or Disease	Periodic Inspections							
	Entrants		Leavers		Others (Interim inspections)		Total	
	Treatment	Observation	Treatment	Observation	Treatment	Observation	Treatment	Observation
Skin	23	22	26	13	66	41	115	76
Eyes:								
(a) Vision	73	229	111	88	262	232	446	549
(b) Squint	48	9	2	—	21	15	71	24
(c) Other	10	5	1	1	12	7	23	13
Ears:								
(a) Hearing	11	23	3	11	26	30	40	64
(b) Otitis Media	24	30	3	1	6	10	33	41
(c) Other	3	3	2	1	2	3	7	7
Nose and Throat	55	90	2	7	28	56	85	153
Speech	40	36	3	—	9	26	52	62
Lymphatic Glands	—	16	—	—	1	4	1	20
Heart	5	47	2	14	6	65	13	126
Lungs	26	52	2	11	25	63	53	126
Developmental:								
(a) Hernia	7	7	2	—	3	12	12	19
(b) Other	8	34	4	5	29	63	41	102
Orthopædic:								
(a) Posture	4	19	8	13	30	27	42	59
(b) Feet	27	69	10	4	53	63	90	136
(c) Other	5	13	10	4	16	32	31	49
Nervous System:								
(a) Epilepsy	8	2	—	—	6	5	14	7
(b) Other	4	7	2	4	5	19	11	30
Psychological:								
(a) Development	1	6	—	1	3	24	4	31
(b) Stability	22	64	3	5	38	85	63	154
Abdomen	5	14	1	6	4	15	10	35
Other	9	18	8	25	21	54	38	97

During the year 7,393 periodic medical inspections, 3,749 re-inspections and 123 special inspections were carried out at the 67 schools, one special school and one nursery school of the education authority in the Division.

Special Clinics

Ophthalmic Clinics: Conducted by Dr. Norman Gardener, Consultant Ophthalmologist, at Hemel Hempstead and Berkhamsted.

Twice weekly sessions on Thursday and Friday mornings were held at Hemel Hempstead. Seventy-eight sessions were held in the year with 740 attendances and spectacles prescribed for 202 children.

Monthly clinics on Saturday mornings were held at Berkhamsted in the excellent accommodation provided at the new Health Centre. Eleven sessions were held at which there were 131 attendances with spectacles prescribed for 48 children.

Orthoptic Clinics: Conducted by Miss D. C. Hall, County Orthoptist.

Weekly sessions on Monday and Friday a.m. and p.m. were held at the central clinic in Hemel Hempstead, and when necessary, at the Health Centre, Berkhamsted. During the year there were 179 sessions at which 1,146 attendances were made.

Speech Therapy Clinics: Conducted by Miss V. Press, Speech Therapist.

Weekly clinics were held in Hemel Hempstead at Churchill, Park Road (Monday a.m. and p.m.), Adeyfield Hall (Friday a.m. and p.m.), Bennetts End Hall (Tuesday a.m. and p.m.), Warners End Hall (Thursday a.m. and p.m.) and at the Health Centre, Berkhamsted (Wednesday a.m. and p.m.).

During the year 447 sessions were held at which there were 1,792 attendances. One hundred and sixty-two children were still attending at the end of the year, 52 under treatment and 110 under observation.

Child Guidance Clinic:

Children requiring diagnosis and treatment or estimation of their intelligence quotient were referred to the clinic at Watford.

Dental Clinics:

There was again a further extension of the dental services available to the Division. At the Churchill clinic 13½ sessions were held weekly including sessions for secondary school children on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings. The Bennetts End clinic held eight sessions weekly and the clinic at the Health Centre, Berkhamsted, held morning sessions each day of the week. School dental inspections, more frequent than in previous years, completed the dental programme.

Convalescent Home Treatment

During the year four children were admitted to short-stay holiday homes for convalescent treatment, the County Council accepting financial responsibility for their maintenance.

Handicapped Pupils

For the year ended 31.12.63 the following handicapped pupils were :

(a) Newly placed in special schools or boarding homes :—

Blind	...	...	...	1	Physically handicapped	6			
Partially sighted			...	2	Educationally sub-normal	27			
Delicate		...	...	3	Deaf	...	...	...	1
Maladjusted		...	...	10	Epileptic		...	...	1
Total				...	51				

(b) Newly assessed as needing special education treatment in special schools or in boarding homes:—

Maladjusted	...	...	10	Delicate	...	...	2
Physically Handicapped			5	Educationally sub-normal			19
Epileptic	...	...	1	Blind	...	...	2
				Partially sighted		...	2

Total ... 41

(c) Number of handicapped pupils in special schools at 31.12.63:—

Blind	...	...	...	1	Physically handicapped	19
Partially sighted			...	3	Educationally sub-normal	79
Deaf or partially deaf	...		16	Maladjusted	...	30
Delicate	...	...	5	Epileptic	...	1

Total ... 154

(d) Number of handicapped pupils receiving home tuition ... 3

HOME NURSING SERVICE

The major part of the service is devoted to the care of the aged and infirm. Of the 27,927 visits paid by the district nurses last year, 21,404 or 76 per cent. were to people aged 65 years or over. There was an increase of 3,700 visits over the previous year and again most of the additional visits, 3,509, were among the aged. A small number of visits, 140, were made to children under five years of age.

Liaison with the St. Paul's Hospital geriatric unit ensured that the maximum use was made of all the services available to the elderly. There is no doubt the waiting list for both hospital and hostel beds was reduced because of the help made available to elderly patients in their homes from both the home nursing and home help services.

As well as nursing attention the sick may receive medical and nursing equipment on loan through the medical loan service. Many hundreds of such items were issued last year including special beds and bed lifts, bed pulleys and hoists. Issues were made from the medical loan depots at Hemel Hempstead and Berkhamsted manned on behalf of the County Council by members of the British Red Cross Society. It is right that the many hours spent on the work should be acknowledged and our indebtedness to the British Red Cross Society be recorded in this report.

There was one innovation last year which warrants special mention. After a lengthy search for a suitable applicant, a nurse was engaged for special night nursing duties in any part of the Division. It was a service long needed and one which was quickly utilised. When not engaged on night nursing, the nurse assisted her colleagues on day duty.

HOME HELP SERVICE

The pattern of the service remained the same as in previous years with a very strong emphasis towards the aged and infirm who, in fact, last year received over 80 per cent. of the available hours.

The number of available hours again showed a further increase but it must be admitted that the increase was governed by supply rather than demand and though a waiting list for the service was largely avoided, the number of hours which could be given to each household was strictly limited and usually below what one would have wished.

The supply of home helps was often variable with an increase in the numbers in the months before the summer holiday and before Christmas (the "saving-up" period) followed by a fall in the numbers during and immediately after these periods. But while a lot of the staff are of necessity employed on a very temporary basis, many find the work sufficiently rewarding to stay with the service for years. One good lady resigned last year after 15 years' wonderful service but still could not sever her long connection with the elderly and infirm and immediately joined the staff of the Welfare Section of the St. Paul's Hospital. Five home helps are still with us after ten years' service and 12 after five years. It would appear that to some, at least, the work is more rewarding than the pay which it attracts.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

Work was begun last year on the Adult Training Centre in Hemel Hempstead on a site immediately adjacent to the Junior Training Centre with which it will share common canteen and dining facilities. Immediately on its completion around July this year, work will begin on an extension to the Junior Training Centre to form a special care unit for severely sub-normal children under ten years of age. These children impose a severe strain on the family, particularly the mother, and a scheme which provides for their daily care while still allowing for their retention in the family circle is one which everyone must hope will succeed.

Social work among the mentally ill proceeded rather more slowly than anticipated and the number of new referrals from hospital was surprisingly small.

